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THE NEWSPAPER FOR DOVER AND THE SURROUNDING VILLAGES

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ATTACK ON CLOSURE OF TOWN LOOS

A FURIOUS attack has been made on Dover District Council after the closure of two public toilets in the town centre.

Labour councillors say the public conveniences at Buckland Bridge and Maison Dieu are now shut in what they call a "cynical move".

And in a statement they claim the closures "came about without any prior notice and were not subject to any consultation".

The Labour group statement goes

■ BY NICK AMES

on to say: "We understand this decision was taken due to the lack of progress in discussions with the town council over taking over responsibility for future maintenance."

The issue of toilet facilities across the region has been much discussed in recent months as the district council seeks to transfer control of them to town and parish authorities.

This move is part of a wider attempt to reorganise facilities run for public benefit across the area.

The leader of the Labour group, Ben Bano, said: "This is an appalling way to treat the people of Dover."

"We condemn this cynical move of Dover District Council which will cause considerable inconvenience for residents and visitors alike."

"This is a popular and historic part of the town and we can't let DDC withdraw these facilities without any prior notice or consultation."

"Other toilets are likely to be closed without notice."

He added: "Labour will be doing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



IT'S SNOW JOKE

This classic snowman was one of the more pleasing sights during the cold snap of recent days. Sledge rides, snowball fights and other fun activities have also been popular among children.

But not so welcome has been the traffic chaos and schools and businesses closing during the wintry spell.

• For a full round-up of snow stories and pictures, see page 4



WHAT'S ON & WATCH

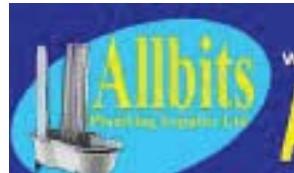
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1 Solicitor Donna Payne is campaigning against domestic abuse in Deal. Search 'abuse'



2 Some beautiful snowy scenes taken across Folkestone and Hythe. Search 'snow'



3 More than 100 swimmers go for a Boxing Day dip in Dover harbour. Search 'Boxing'

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NEW OUTLOOK? An Audit Commission report has praised the work of Dover District Council

Inspectors give district council a pat on the back

■ BY NICK AMES

DOVER District Council has won praise in a national report.

The authority is laying the foundations for future achievement for regeneration of the district and is making good progress with projects to bring homes, jobs and services to the area, according to the survey.

The report, by the Audit Commission, says the council is providing good support to vulnerable people, and has coped well with the recession, offering assistance to local employers and increasing resources in its benefits service.

All aspects of the work of the local authority were studied by the report's inspectors.

It also says the council has sound arrangements in place to manage its finances, local people are consulted about spending decisions, and people feel the council offers good value for money.

The council has an effective approach to partnership working, and is working closely with other east Kent councils to explore ways of providing more cost-effective services.

The report says people are concerned about antisocial behaviour but

are satisfied with the council's response to it. But challenges include improving sporting facilities, and maintaining progress on regeneration plans in the face of recession.

In the Kent-wide assessment, two green flags have been given for major achievements and innovations.

The first is for the series of Gateways across Kent, which includes Dover Gateway, and the other is for improving skills to match Kent's growing economy.

Foundations

Paul Watkins, leader of Dover District Council, said: "We are pleased this report recognises the foundations for the future in Dover district.

"We continue to work hard to support and listen to residents and, in these difficult times, we continue to work with all our partners to provide the most effective services and foundations for the future.

"This is a realistic assessment that identifies the limitations of district councils to be able to deliver comprehensive change unless supported by wider and progressive partnership organisations.

"We will continue to be the voice of the community's aspirations, and carry the message to the wider audience about the opportunities Dover district offers."

Wage discrepancies between the sexes

WOMEN working in Dover and the surrounding district are earning a third less than their male counterparts, according to figures compiled by Kent County Council.

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings for Kent, which uses data from 2008, measures the earnings for county residents.

It shows women in Dover are earning an average £384.80 a week before tax. This is £126 less than the £510 average wage for men in the district – but is £1 more than the female average for Kent.

Witnesses sought over cables theft

POLICE in Dover are appealing for information following the theft of 20 drums of electricity cables, worth an estimated £1,500.

The theft happened between December 27 and January 3 from a property in Cleveland Close.

The cable is described as 100m drum of Armour black cable, one drum of red fireproof cable and various black, brown and grey cable.

Anyone with information should call police on 01303 289180 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Community have their say in play area plans

PROPOSALS for a new children's play area at Kearsney Abbey are being developed.

Design options for a creative and innovative play area and improvements in Russell Gardens, were discussed at the abbey site on Monday.

The plans have been welcomed by locals as being of considerable benefit to young people in the area.

The design proposals have been developed following a range of ideas from the community after a consultation in September.

Jobless numbers rise

UNEMPLOYMENT in the Dover area has risen according to the latest figures – despite a national trend which sees jobless numbers falling.

The number increased by 5.6 per cent to 2,373 and the worst-affected regions include Eythorne and Shepherdswell.

Nationally the rate fell by 0.8 per cent – mostly thought to be due to an increase in seasonal work being available over the Christmas period.

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Support at the centre of solicitor's altruism

Making a stand against abuse

■ BY NICK AMES

LAWYER Donna Payne is looking to set up the UK's first centre for families in crisis after already establishing a pioneering project to help victims of domestic abuse.

The solicitor, who is based in Walmer, said there is worryingly little help available in east Kent for people who suffer abuse or violence in the home.

Statistically across the country one in four women and one in four men will experience problems of this type at some point in their lives. Figures also show that the number of such offences is higher than the national average in the Dover area.

"I started thinking seriously about what a problem this matter is when I was involved legally with a woman who had suffered abuse yet her abuser was still in the home," she said. "Legal Aid is of course available to victims but it is not open to all. To take someone to court for domestic offences is very expensive and that makes it prohibitive for many people."

"There is not even a children's contact centre

— where visiting sessions can be conducted in a secure environment — in the Dover area.

"We have around 50,000 households yet people have to travel to Folkestone or Canterbury for such facilities."

Mrs Payne was the first solicitor in the country to offer free legal advice and support for victims, although there is now another practise in Leeds which has the same undertaking.

"I have received a lot of help from police and some amount of surprise from judges that I am offering to work for no financial gain," she said.

"But the legal system has its own problems in this field. In some cases the courts feel bail conditions in a domestic case are sufficient to protect the victim.

"This is not always the case — what I do is help those in trouble to get an injunction against the offender, which has far more stringent conditions and so offers more protection."

Mrs Payne is now looking to expand on her work.

"What I want to establish now is a centre which will assist families in crisis in every way, whether that be counselling, legal advice and mediation, child access or family therapies," she said.

"As far as I know it will be the only one of its type in the UK."

Funds to set up the centre are currently being sought and one of Mrs Payne's ideas is for a sponsored slim.

"I have a number of local fitness experts to help and advise," she said. "People can get to lose a few pounds and help to provide facilities for victims of domestic abuse at the same time."

To see how to get involved, you can go to www.yourkenttv.co.uk.



FREE HELP: Solicitor Donna Payne is providing free legal advice and support to victims of domestic abuse

Bug outbreak on New Year cruise

MORE than a quarter of the passengers on board a cruise of the Canary Islands were taken ill during an outbreak of norovirus on the ship — possibly caused by contact between passengers during a New Year's Eve Party.

A total of 342 passengers and nine crew members on the Fred.Olsen vessel Balmoral, which left Dover on December 21, were affected by the contagious vomiting bug.

A spokeswoman for the cruise operator said the ship arrived back in Dover last week and passengers had disembarked.

The spokeswoman said contact during New Year's Eve celebrations may have encouraged the spread of the virus.

Norovirus causes vomiting and diarrhoea. It normally lasts between one and three days but can affect victims for longer periods.

A number of cruises have been hit by this bug in recent years.

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Take a view of Dover from the air. View 'air'

Meeting is called over the toilet shutdown

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

everything possible to get the toilets reopened as soon as possible."

A spokeswoman for the district council said the financial situation was behind the move.

She said: "These are difficult financial times for local government."

Dover District Council issued press statements in October stressing the importance of alternative ways to fund toilets and other discretionary services.

"DDC has subsequently engaged with very positive results from town and parish councils throughout its district."

"Should this be the case for Dover Town Council in supporting toilet provision, we will be happy to review our position to achieve an amicable outcome for the public."

Dover Town Council has called a public meeting about the issue, which is set to take place next Wednesday, January 20.

Exercising is strictly sponsored for NSPCC

FOOTBALLERS' Wives and Strictly Come Dancing star Zoe Lucker is calling on local people to get fit by taking part in the NSPCC's biggest ever Aerobathon — or sponsored workout — on Monday, February 8.

More than 150 leisure centres are taking part across the UK, including The Tides Leisure Centre in Deal and The Sandwich Sports and Leisure Centre in Sandwich, to support the NSPCC Child's Voice Appeal.

The sponsored two-hour aerobic workout will be led by qualified instructors at exactly the same time in each location, from 6-8pm.

Zoe Lucker said: "I urge readers to take part in the Aerobathon. Money raised will help the NSPCC to grow its Helpline for adults concerned about a child, and its ChildLine service. This will help protect more children around the UK."

Anna Keir, NSPCC local fund-raising manager said: "This is the first year the NSPCC has organised the Aerobathon across the UK."

"This is a great way to blitz the new year calories we tend to accumulate and have fun at the same time, so why not sign up with friends, family and colleagues and encourage anyone you know to sign up too?"

"We hope to see hundreds of people



ENERGETIC: Zoe Lucker supports NSPCC

taking part to help raise money for our Child's Voice Appeal."

Those who want further details about the Aerobathon — which organisers hope will raise £425,000 across the UK — should visit www.nspcc.org.uk/aerobathon.

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The white way to have fun

■ BY NICK AMES

THE big freeze gripped the Channel coast as train services and buses were cancelled, schools closed and businesses were unable to function properly due to people being unable to get to work.

Country roads were littered with abandoned vehicles and some were completely covered in snow as fresh downfalls occurred.

But for children it was all fun – sledging and snowball fights were the order of the day as many schools shut their doors.

Police said roads were “passable with extreme care”, but many motorists did not risk going out and instead stayed at home.

Buses remained one of the best ways to get around, with services from Dover, Folkestone and surrounding areas mostly running, if subject to delays. However, some modifications to routes were made to take them away from country lanes.

Last week, traffic could not get up Whitfield Hill at Dover and there were reports of cars getting stuck in the ice and snow at Dover Road and at St Margaret's at Cliffe.

Officers were then alerted to a giant snowball in Victoria Road, Deal, which had been rolled into the road and blocked it.

There were also vehicles stuck in Connaught Road, Dover, and reports of lorries slipping on the roundabout at the town's Archcliffe Road.

Eurostar ran a restricted service after a train broke down in the Channel Tunnel, while a revised train schedule was in operation from Folkestone and Dover stations because of the freezing conditions.

However, high-speed services continued to run to schedule and passengers with standard tickets were allowed on at no extra cost.

Roads and many pavements were gritted but conditions on pavements away from town centres were treacherous because of ice.

The hills surrounding Dover and Folkestone were popular with sledgers.

But youngsters were warned to stay away from icy water after a group of 12-year-olds were seen skidding across a large pond.

Police arrived at Radnor Park, Folkestone, after receiving calls from the public, despite them both being fenced off.

They were first alerted when children were seen skating along the bottom of the duck pond, which had already been drained as it was due for cleaning.

Sgt John Merritt said: “Children and adults should stay away from frozen ponds as there is the obvious danger of falling through the ice.”

Several calls were also received throughout the day from people complaining about snowballs being thrown at their houses or cars.

Men were reportedly throwing snowballs at



Pictures KAROL STEFF



SNOW GO! Clockwise from top: the only way to travel; Buckland Church; keeping warm; sledging at The Crabble

passing cars in Cheriton High Street and an elderly lady in East Folkestone called police after snowballs were thrown at her window.

There was also a complaint about snowballs in Taylor's Lane, St Mary's Bay.

Sgt Merritt said: “We don't want to stop peo-

ple having fun in the snow, but they should do so safely and responsibly.

“Throwing snowballs could cause alarm, intimidation or damage and we have received a number of calls from people who have found this to be a nuisance.”

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FRESH START: The Remade In Dover opening event gave new life to a range of unwanted items from the home

There's nothing wasteful about this thrifty art

REMADE IN DOVER is the name of an innovative arts project in the community and a recycling drive known as 'upcycling' – which also wants to remove the recession stigma from charity shops.

Upcycling is the recreation of something old into something new – waste materials or items are used to make new products.

The project aims to get people upcycling and sharing skills, changing general perceptions of what waste is.

Organisers say it also aims to challenge people's view of Dover's charity shops as a sign of a struggling economy; instead they look at them as ethical modern leaders in the field of reuse and a great source of materials for upcycling.

The town centre has often been the subject of criticism for the number of charity shops it has.

The project was put together by Dover Arts Development and Dover Pride Regeneration Partnership in response to Kent Arts

BY NICK AMES

Development Unit's New Recipes funding programme, the aim of which is to increase participation in the arts in Kent.

The main face of Remade In Dover is the Recreation shop at 15 Bench Street.

The shop will be open until mid-February and has four aspects – a shop where you can buy upcycled products; a swap shop, where people can bring an item and swap it for something someone else has left; a workshop; and the reading area with a selection of books on related topics.

The shop also features work by artists in the field of upcycling, which include reusage of old postcards and other artistic creations.

Sarah Lang, Dover Pride programme officer, said "We are really grateful for all the support we have received in creating the shop and at the opening."

"This is a positive example of Dover supporting something new and I hope people continue to come into the shop and join in the workshops."

Improvements you can counter on

THE public enquiry counter at Dover police station in Ladywell is being refurbished.

Improvement work started this week and the old-fashioned counter will be replaced with a larger, modern open-plan one, designed to be more customer-friendly.

It will be business as usual for visitors to the police station throughout the building work and a portable cabin is being set up at the front of the station, which will be open during the usual times – 8am-8pm Monday-Saturday and 10am-6pm Sundays.

The refurbishment is expected to be completed within four months.

Chief Inspector Ken Elmes, Dover District Commander, said: "Our front



counter has not been changed for many years, but when the improvement work is completed there will be more room and a better environment for visitors.

"This is part of our commitment, with our partners, to provide a high-level and accessible service to the local community."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fresh call for a big screen

A CAMPAIGN has been set up on social networking site Facebook calling for a new cinema in Deal.

So far it has some 300 members, all echoing the call for a full range of new releases to be shown in the town.

The site states: "This is for those who used to go to Flicks [the last cinema] before it got closed down in late 2007."

"The cinema benefited everyone because it was a good walking distance for those who live in Deal, Walmer and the surrounding villages..."

"During the holidays young people used to go there by their own or with friends."

Campaigners say that a new cinema in the town would aid its regeneration as the Astor Theatre reopening establishes it as a cultural centre for east Kent.

One suggestion has been to establish a new cinema in premises close to the pier.

Drug smuggler locked up

A MAN has been jailed for nine years for attempting to smuggle heroin valued at an estimated £2 million into the UK through the Port of Dover.

Dutch national Marcel Volkers, 47, from Amsterdam, was convicted of the charge at an earlier hearing and sentenced at Canterbury Crown Court on Tuesday last week.

When he was charged, UK Border Agency officers said they found 99lb of the Class A drug in a lorry trailer at Dover's Eastern Docks. The vehicle, which arrived from Calais, had been carrying a cargo of apples.

House arson investigation

POLICE in Dover are appealing for information after an arson attack on a house in Crabble Avenue overnight on New Year's Eve.

No one was hurt and the property did not sustain serious damage, although a double-glazing window unit sustained £300 damage.

"The motive for this arson is unclear and one line of enquiry is that the house was targeted in error," said DC Melissa Avory.

"I would like to speak to anyone who has information that will help the inquiry."

Anyone with information should phone DC Avory on 01303 289415 or alternatively they can call Kent Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

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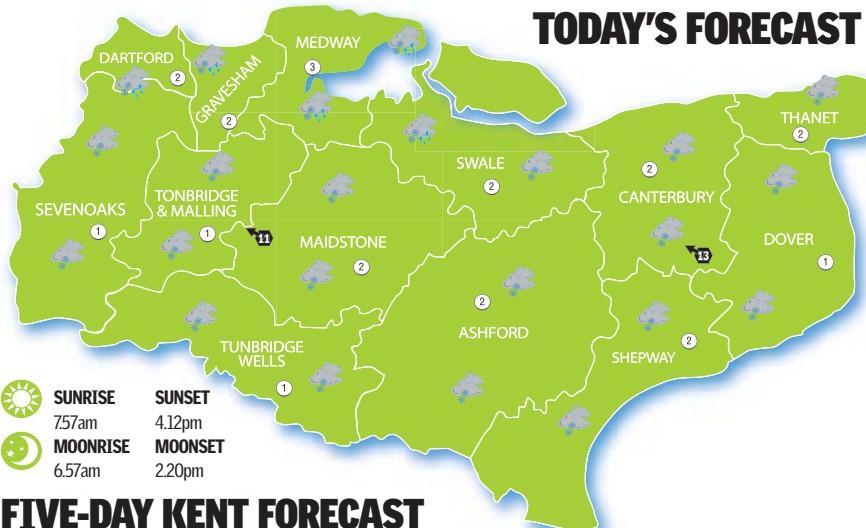


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Chatham	Saturday	1:36pm	5.7m
	Sunday	2:08pm	5.8m
Dover	Saturday	11:46am	6.3m
	Sunday	12:19pm	6.3m
Dungeness	Saturday	11:41am	7.1m
	Sunday	12:15pm	7.2m
Ramsgate	Saturday	12:16pm	4.8m
	Sunday	12:49pm	4.8m
Sheerness	Saturday	1:26pm	5.5m
	Sunday	1:58pm	5.5m
Whitstable	Saturday	1:27pm	5.0m
	Sunday	1:58pm	5.1m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	0°C	Madrid	-1°C
Athens	15°C	New York	-4°C
Barcelona	7°C	Paris	1°C
Beijing	-6°C	Rome	8°C
Bombay	31°C	Sydney	26°C
Cape Town	24°C	Tenerife	21°C
Cardiff	1°C	Tokyo	5°C
Gibraltar	16°C	Vancouver	10°C
Hong Kong	14°C	Warsaw	-3°C
Las Palmas	21°C	Wellington	15°C

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	1°C	2°C	3°C	5°C	5°C	Gravesend	2°C	2°C	3°C	5°C	6°C
Canterbury	1°C	2°C	4°C	5°C	5°C	Maidstone	2°C	2°C	3°C	5°C	5°C
Chatham	3°C	3°C	4°C	6°C	5°C	Ramsgate	1°C	2°C	4°C	5°C	5°C
Dartford	2°C	2°C	3°C	5°C	6°C	Rochester	3°C	3°C	4°C	6°C	5°C
Dover	1°C	1°C	3°C	4°C	4°C	Sevenoaks	0°C	1°C	2°C	3°C	4°C
Faversham	3°C	3°C	4°C	6°C	5°C	Sittingbourne	3°C	3°C	4°C	6°C	5°C
Folkestone	1°C	1°C	3°C	4°C	4°C	Tonbridge	1°C	1°C	3°C	5°C	5°C
Gillingham	3°C	3°C	4°C	6°C	5°C	Tun Wells	1°C	1°C	3°C	5°C	5°C

Volunteers needed to help at hard-of-hearing clinics

HI KENT, the charity that works with the deaf and hard-of-hearing, needs more volunteers in the Deal and Dover area.

The charity, which covers the whole of Kent, runs several volunteer-staffed hearing-aid aftercare and advice clinics and is looking to recruit new volunteers to help run them.

Statistically, one in seven people has hearing loss, and many elderly people have difficulty re-tubing their NHS hearing aids or in changing the small batteries which they need. Hi Kent carries out all these tasks at its clinics and also supplies batteries free of charge. After training, volunteers need only contribute two or three hours a month, and expenses are paid.

People interested in joining Hi Kent's volunteer team should phone 01622 691151 and ask for the volunteer coordinator, or alternatively email enquiries@hikent.org.uk.

Proposed merger to help cut council-housing costs

BETTER council housing could be on the way for tenants in Dover and Shepway if a pioneering plan is approved.

The idea is for a project allowing the two local authorities to work alongside Canterbury and Thanet councils to manage council housing across the area as one. This should cut costs which come with duplicating services which would then be reinvested elsewhere in the housing budgets.

If proposals are approved, each council's tenants will be able to have a say in setting up a not-for-profit housing company to be owned by the four councils. This is the first time four councils have combined their housing services in such a way and it is estimated to save £1.5 million over five years.

A final decision on the plans is set to be made in the next few weeks.

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QUESTION & ANSWER

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Q & A

The new chair of trustees at The Caldecott Foundation, which cares for up to 50 children who have suffered cruelty and neglect, talks to Ed Hill about the future of the foundation and its achievements so far

Q Why did you want to get involved with The Caldecott Foundation?

A My involvement began five years ago after a casual conversation with a friend who has been a long-serving Caldecott trustee. Caldecott had just built a new school on their Smeeth site and were looking for school governors. I have always been interested in education, both personally and professionally – I was chairman for almost seven years of the Alpha Plus education group in London – so I was delighted to help.

Q How has it changed in recent years?

A A great deal. In the mid-90s, an appeal was launched for major projects, including building a new school and improving the houses. This raised £8 million. The Duke of Edinburgh visited us three years ago to mark its successful conclusion. But it's not just about capital investment. We have also made great strides in developing our range of services and in enhancing the quality of integrated care we provide for some of Britain's most neglected and vulnerable children, so as to help them rebuild their lives.

Q You have extensive experience in business. How does this help in your work with the Caldecott Foundation?

A Most of our income is from local authority social services departments, who place children in our care. They expect us to manage our

affairs in a professional and businesslike way. We don't receive Government funding or grants, so we need to work hard to provide the best care, therapy, education and fostering service we can within the resources available. We have to be competitive to earn the opportunity to do that. What's more, we need to set money aside to invest in facilities for the future, so we look after our money very carefully and are very appreciative of the donations and legacies we receive from our supporters. These help pay for life-enriching extras for the children, such as holidays, outings and sports equipment.

Q Are the services the foundation offers under more pressure at the moment? What are the main problems?

A With public finances under scrutiny, it is an economically difficult time for our local authority clients and we will need more than ever to demonstrate high quality and value for money. Running a care organisation like Caldecott is inevitably costly, not least because of our relatively high staff-to-child ratio.

Q The foundation is almost 100 years old – how do you see its future?

A We're looking forward to our centenary in 2011, but it is a sobering thought that child cruelty and neglect cases such as Baby P show there is as great a need as ever for the sort of care and protection we provide. Our role is to ensure that we continue to develop our service

es to meet the needs of children and young people and to strive continuously to improve outcomes for those in our care.

Q Why do you think it has managed to maintain this success over all those years?

A Because we care, and because we're always thinking about how we can best help the children who are placed with us. Our services are constantly evolving and we now provide a complete package, from initial assessment through to residential care in one of our seven houses, therapy, schooling, fostering and, finally, supporting them into the outside world.

Q How can people get involved to help the foundation?

A There are lots of ways to help the Caldecott Foundation by giving a little time or money. There are volunteering opportunities and a regular programme of events. We enjoy working with companies, and there are plenty of ways to make donations. Visit our website at www.thecaldecottfoundation.co.uk and click on 'How You Can Help'.

Q Who inspired you when you were younger? How did they affect your life?

A I was fortunate to work early on in different enterprises for a succession of bosses whom I liked and admired and from whom I learned a great deal. The one common feature was that they were all extremely demanding!



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■ BY MARIKE COX

A GRIEVING father whose son was killed by a speeding driver has spoken of his heartache for a hard-hitting TV advert.

Michael Bollom, from Bearsted near Maidstone, hopes the candid account of his son James's death will bring home to viewers the harsh reality that speeding can kill.

He said: "This isn't just coming from an actor on TV – this is coming from a parent who lost his child."

In the advert, which will be shown on ITV Meridian, the 50-year-old recalls James's death in December, 2005.

The 16-year-old was killed a month short of his 17th birthday when the car he was travelling in lost control in the village of Wateringbury.

He died instantly after taking the full force of the crash.

The driver was prosecuted and jailed for dangerous driving.

The life-changing consequences of the crash took a further tragic twist when James's grief-stricken mother, Samantha, took her own life three months later.

Mr Bollom believes by opening up about the tragedy on television, people will take notice and think twice about their speed while on the road.

"I want to get the message across to some of these young drivers that speeding can have tragic consequences," he said.

"If I can prevent just one death, prevent one family from going through the pain we suffered, then it will be worthwhile."

"By me doing it rather than an actor it makes it all the more real for people and therefore will have more of an impact."

Mr Bollom, who is director of a manufacturing company in Sittingbourne, was

Devastated dad's TV plea to stop speeding drivers



MESSAGE: Michael Bollom hopes that his moving account of his son's death will make drivers think and (right) with James at a wedding before the tragedy which claimed his life. He has also had a book about his experiences published.

approached by Kent Police to talk about his grief as part of a campaign to clamp down on speeding.

The 30-second advert was filmed at Maidstone Studios by Southside Television and will be shown on ITV from this Friday to mid-February.

"It was daunting doing the advert and

brought up a lot of sad memories," said Mr Bollom. But if helps prevent people speeding then it's been worth it."

Assistant Chief Constable Gary Beaubridge paid tribute to Mr Bollom for taking part in the campaign.

"We are grateful to Michael for having the courage to do this and to help us get the

message through that speed kills," he said.

Director of Southside Television, Martin Smith, also praised him.

He said: "He was brave to do something like this as it obviously brought memories flooding back, but he is determined James should not have died in vain."

As part of his own personal plight, Mr Bollom has also written a book entitled *Losing James: A Father Cries Too*.

It gives a poignant account of his grief and how he dealt with the tragedy that tore his world apart. He hopes it will help other families cope with bereavement.

He said: "It's going very well – Waterstone's has taken it on in two of their branches in Maidstone. I've had emails from people saying it has helped them with their own grief."

Money from sales is donated to Holding On, Letting Go, which is part of Demelza House, a children's hospice based near Sittingbourne.

The charity aims to help families cope with bereavement.

Mr Bollom said: "We have already raised £2,000. Some of the people who have read my book have also given extra donations to the charity."

• To buy *Losing James: A Father Cries Too*, email mike@boundbiographies.com or go to Waterstone's in Maidstone.

'Designer dogs' dumped by cash-strapped owners

A RISE in demand for so-called 'designer breeds' has sparked fears even more dogs will be dumped in the coming weeks and months.

The Dogs Trust says cross-breeds like the labradoodle face an increased risk of being abandoned due to their newfound popularity as short-term fashion accessories rather than lifetime companions.

Staff at the charity's rehoming centre in Canterbury are currently caring for three such animals and are concerned they may receive more in the weeks and months to come.

Manager Lizzie Reffell said: "We're seeing more designer breeds coming through the kennel system and it's quite unusual."

"These dogs are new on the scene

and are quite expensive, which may be why they are becoming increasingly popular as fashion accessories."

"But still people do not seem able to cope with them or keep them long-term. Many don't seem to understand the dogs they buy will need to be looked after for the next ten years."

"We took in quite a few labradoodles last year but the problem has become more apparent now we have three cross-breeds at once. Fortunately because they are so popular they tend to be rehomed fairly quickly."

Three dogs that are currently being cared for by Dogs Trust Canterbury are Ruby the puggle (pug-beagle), Benson the boxador (boxer-labrador) and Charlie the



GIVE A DOG A HOME: (from left) Puglie Ruby, boxador Benson and sprollie Charlie are all being cared for by the Dogs Trust Canterbury

sprollie (springer spaniel-collie). Last year the BBC sparked a controversy when it dropped the annual Crufts dog show from its television schedule, citing concerns about the welfare of some of the pedigree canines on show.

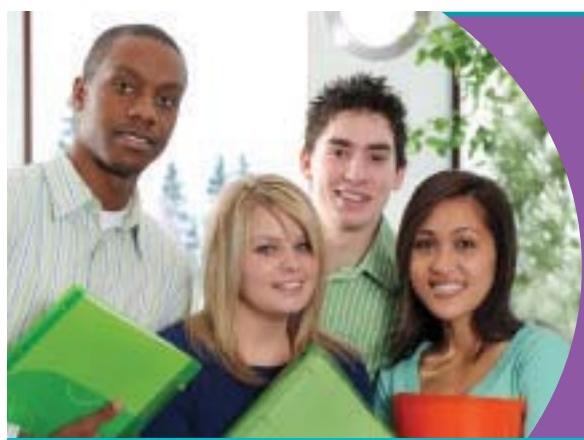
However, Ms Reffell said there was no evidence to suggest cross-breeding caused any of the genetic defects uncovered by the broadcaster.

She added: "The dogs we've come across haven't had anything wrong



with them but as time goes on we will find out more and more about the effects of cross-breeding."

• **Anyone who is interested in providing a home for one of the Dogs Trust's animals can phone 01227 792505.**



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yourblogger

Lifelong Kent supporter Dave Mairs berates the club's decision to play a home game in south London



SO Kent's cricketers are to play a 'home' match at The Oval, home of Surrey County Cricket Club.

A joke, a hopelessly mistimed April Fool's, or perhaps a necessary move in the wake of The St Lawrence Ground's planned redevelopment... these were the first thoughts to flash through many supporters' minds.

But no, it was none of these. The decision to schedule a Twenty20 clash between Kent Spitfires and Essex Eagles was taken in the cold light of day to – in the words of acting chief executive Jamie Clifford – "spread the Kent cricket message far and wide".

And what precisely is the "Kent cricket message" that we're so keen to spread?

The county's failure to win the County Championship since 1978? A truly lamentable return of three trophies in 31 years?

Or perhaps, more likely, the abandonment of all trace of history and tradition at a club that has – admittedly perhaps too much – placed great stock by such values.

Whatever the answer, thankfully the initial marketing drivel has been replaced by a more honest explanation: we're doing it for the money.

The truth is certainly more palatable than any talk of the Kent cricket message (spare us!) but, forgetting the weight of the coffers, what's the real cost?

Even if The Oval venture proves a financial triumph, Kent appear to be behaving like some awe-struck kid brother.

"People should come and watch us at what is an iconic venue," Mr Clifford has told us. "It's like having a final early in the season."

The day our county cricket lost its way

No it isn't. It's like watching Kent v Essex at The Oval when we should be watching the fixture at Canterbury, Tunbridge Wells or Beckenham.

The only time Kent should be playing at The Oval is when they face Surrey in an away fixture – which, of course, is what it is.

Kent supporters invariably turn out in big numbers for those matches, ironically making them feel like home games.

That is the triumph for Kent and their fans, not the club's administration doffing the cap and begging to be allowed to party at the home of the supposed big boys.

As a Kent supporter, I find the whole thing humiliating. Doubtless the Essex supporters at The Oval on July 9 will be quick to point out quite how laughable Kent are making themselves look.

It's the very essence of team sport in this country – there are home ties and there are away ties.

In that respect, the quality of your ground or facilities doesn't matter – some of the

trickiest away challenges are at the grottiest places.

Not, you understand, that I'm saying The St Lawrence is grotty. It isn't – it's a lovely place to watch cricket – and it's Kent's home.

Can you imagine Lancashire playing home games at Headingley (Yorkshire's HQ), or Yorkshire hosting games at Old Trafford in Manchester?

Of course not – both clubs have enough respect for their traditions and, importantly, their supporters.

Perhaps at the core of this is the concept of what county cricket is all about.

With the club having fielded disappointingly few home-bred players over recent years, what makes us Kent?

It clearly isn't that fact that we have a team of cricketers who mostly hail from the county – because we don't – so the only credible answer is the fact that we play in Kent.

As the fans sing, "We are Kent". And that is where, when we are competing at home, we should play our cricket.

GET IN TOUCH...

We want to hear your views



EMAIL: We want your letters, comments and views. Send your submissions to editor Dave Mairs at dave.mairs@kosmedia.co.uk

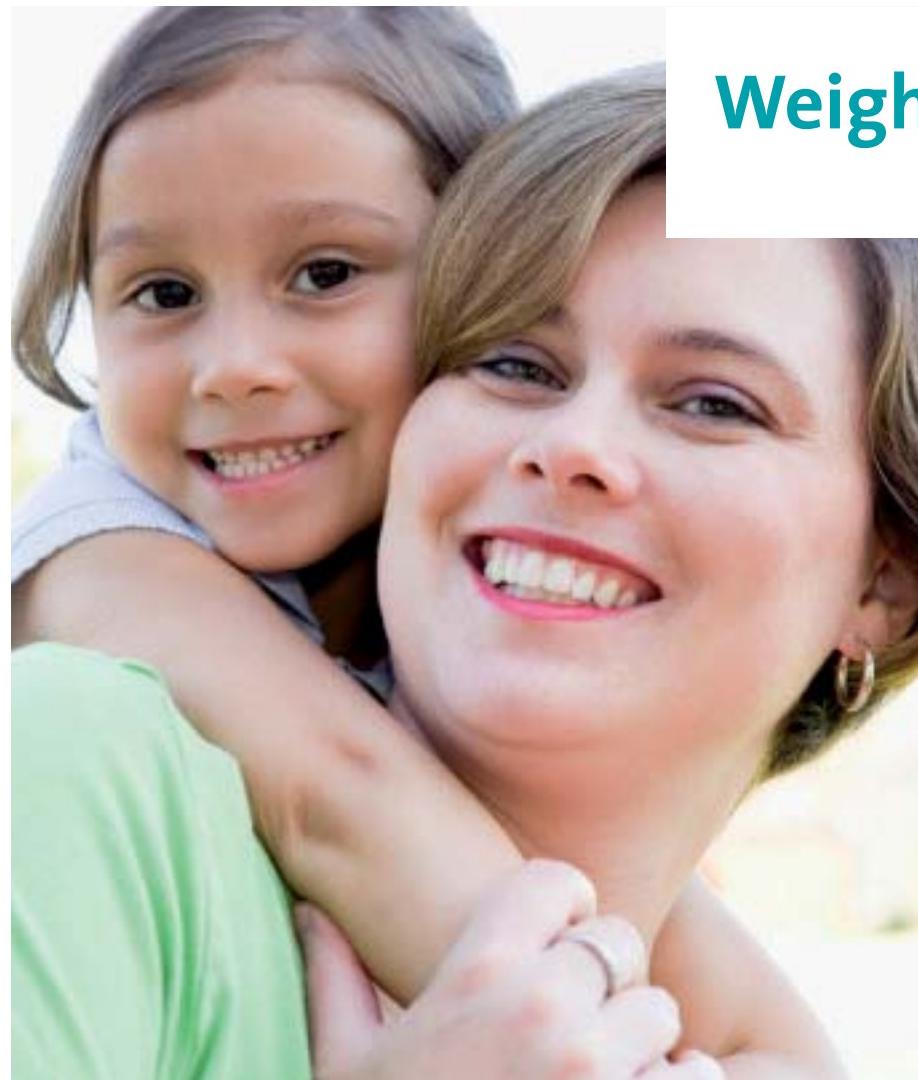
LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering, contact the editor, **Dave Mairs**, on **01303 817022**, or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next blogger, then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of about 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town, log on to www.kentnews.co.uk.

Write to Editor Dave Mairs, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

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Ben Inter a shot at big time with the 'Special One'

FOOTBALL fanatic Ben Greenhalgh could swap Orpington for Italy after reaching the finals of a television competition to find the sport's next star.

The 17-year-old Darrick Wood School pupil is one of 10 youngsters battling it out for a contract with Serie A champions Inter Milan – currently managed by former Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho.

Ben's attempts to impress the self-proclaimed 'Special One' form part of the new Sky1 show Football's Next Star, which kicked off last Sunday.

Throughout the course of the seven-part series the youngsters will work with the likes of Mourinho and former England star Jamie Redknapp to hone their skills and hopefully win a contract at the San Siro.

Contract

Filming for the show – which also saw Ben rub shoulders with Real Madrid megastar Cristiano Ronaldo – was completed last October, but Ben was keeping tight-lipped about how the competition ended.

He said: "I'm not allowed to give anything away, but it would certainly be life-changing to win the chance to play for Inter."

"As soon as I found out I would be going to Italy for a month I knew I had to take it seriously, because you don't receive this sort of opportunity every day. You've got to believe you're going to go all the way."

"When we were out there they were saying it

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

was between me and one other guy, but I just tried to relax and enjoy the experience rather than get nervous and worry about things."

Left-winger Ben earned his place in the finals after impressing the judges at one of several national roadshows, which he was entered into by his Kent youth team coach.

He eventually made the final 10 after impressing Inter youth coaches Paolo Migliavacci and Marco Monti, the latter of whom oversaw the youngsters' progress during their time in Italy and was responsible for deciding who would leave the competition from week to week.

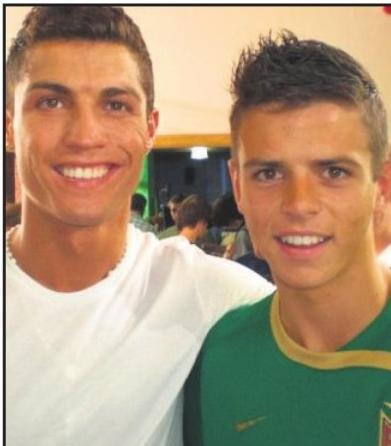
The San Siro is a long way from Welling United's Park View Road, which was where Ben was originally planning to play his football this season.

He said: "There were a lot of problems because I had just signed a contract with Welling before I took part in the competition, but because I was 18 I was able to get out of it.

"In the end Welling were quite good about it, but it was quite stressful because it still hadn't been sorted out the night before the people on the show needed it to be."

"I joined Welling because the manager [Jamie Day] said a professional club would see me and sign me up, but I felt it was a better opportunity to take part in this competition and hopefully get snapped up by Inter."

• **Football's Next Star can be seen on Sunday at 8pm on Sky1.**



LIFE-CHANGING OPPORTUNITY: Inter Milan boss Jose Mourinho (right) is waiting to see whether Kent's Ben Greenhalgh (pictured left with Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo) can win a professional contract with the current Serie A champions



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Chief Constable's future to be decided this week

KENT'S Chief Constable Mike Fuller will find out this week if he is to be offered the top job at the Crown Prosecution Service.

Mr Fuller – who is Britain's first black police chief – has been selected by Attorney General Baroness Scotland as the preferred candidate to become Chief Inspector of the CPS.

Members of the Justice Committee in the House of Commons – including Bromley and Chislehurst MP Bob Neill – were due to discuss their decision yesterday, with an official announcement expected to be made soon after.

Should Mr Fuller land the job, it is rumoured his deputy, Adrian Leppard, will fill the Chief Constable position on a temporary basis until a permanent replacement is found.

Speaking to KOS Media shortly after his name was put forward last month, Mr Fuller stressed the deal was far from done.

He said: "I'm not gone yet, but I have been through the selection process and I've been



DECISION TIME: Chief Constable Mike Fuller

put forward as the preferred candidate, but the MPs might disagree.

"It is quite an unusual thing for the CPS to look outside the service for this role. I have engaged with the CPS from the other side of the fence, so am able to see where improvements could be made from an operational angle."

Mr Fuller joined Kent Police as chief constable in January, 2004, having previously been with the Met since starting as a cadet in 1975.

Under his leadership the county has seen the introduction of Neighbourhood Policing Teams – 14 specialist units aimed at combating low-level crime – while also securing the use of a police helicopter as part of a joint working agreement with Essex.

Mr Fuller also holds honorary doctorates of law and is a non-practising barrister, having been called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in July, 2007.

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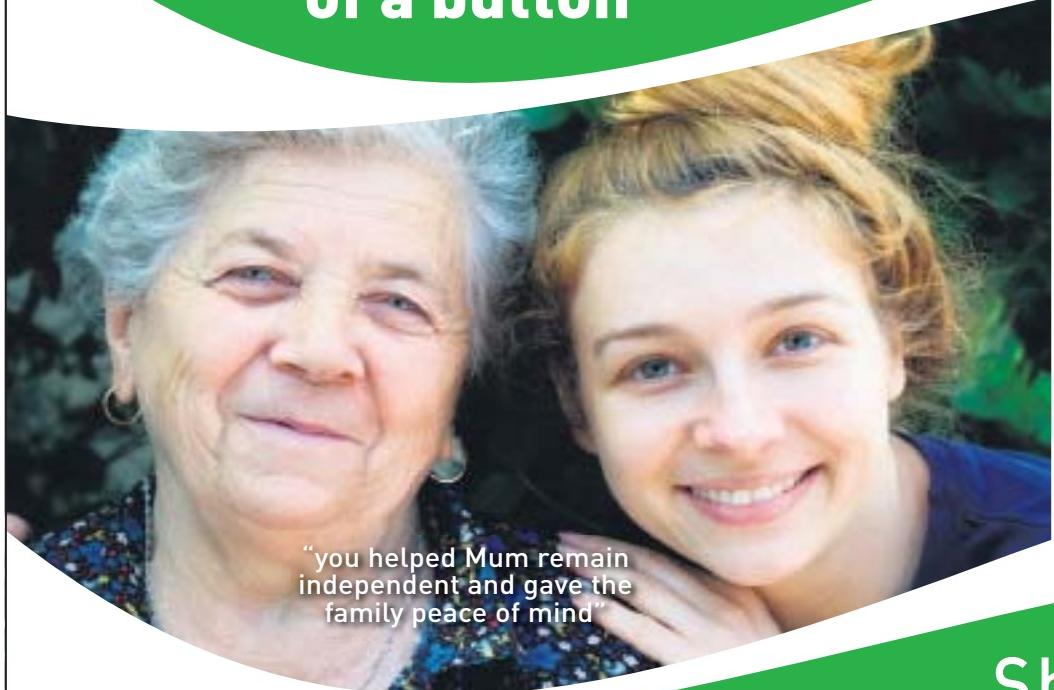
Also included is a free health and fitness assessment for both members! Plus, as a member of the Health Club there are also discounts on food in the Hotel Restaurant and at the Regatta Hair and Beauty Salons.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Churchill Health Club Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is February 15, 2009.

Question: In which town can you find the Churchill Health Club?

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yourschools



FASHION: Students from years 10, 11, 12 and 13 at Folkestone Academy let their imaginations run wild at school fashion event

Creativity hits the catwalk at fashion show

■ BY TOM BETTS

FOLKESTONE Academy pupils strutted the catwalk to showcase their hair and make-up creations to a packed audience and a panel of five top industry professionals.

Students from years 10, 11, 12 and 13 let their imaginations run wild with some edgy styles, ranging from conceptual mood boards to catwalk perfection.

The show included live catwalk images projected onto the big screen by the Academy Media Crew, giving the panel the chance to see every detail of the creations and judge an overall winner for this year's event.

Practical sessions, with professional tutors in The Zone hair and beauty salon have been spent learning different styles and mastering essential techniques.

Couture gowns, created by Ella Boutique in Folkestone, and wedding dresses from Country Brides were modelled by the students at last month's event.

Amanda Gillet, head of hair and beauty, said: "The students researched their fashion look and even had a talk on fashion shows from make-up and nail artist Michaela



Bolder, who has worked with top models at London Fashion Week.

"Michaela gave students tips and ideas, inspiring them to be more creative. This was a chance for the hair and beauty students to showcase their creative work to parents and the school."

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TALK TIME

JACKIE ANDREWS

The director of neighbourhood services' role is to ensure the service delivered to Orbit South Housing Association residents is top-quality

How long have you worked at Orbit and how would you describe your role?

I have worked at Orbit for five years and became director of neighbourhood services in February 2009. My role is to ensure we deliver excellent services to all residents and ensure residents are involved in how the services can be improved and developed. I ensure services are delivered to general-needs residents as well as leaseholders and older residents in sheltered accommodation. I also ensure rents are collected, estates are managed effectively and antisocial behaviour is dealt with, and we develop communities that people want to live in and enjoy living in.

What are your main priorities at Orbit South?

As well as delivering front-line services and managing the neighbourhood teams, I also work with partners to support the communities in which we work. We work in 23 local-authority areas and have strong relationships with them. Our partnerships enable us to offer apprenticeships and training to residents. Our income team works with credit unions and other agencies to support those who find it hard to meet ends meet. We have a welfare benefits team which supports this approach. The main priorities are to enable residents to live in homes and communities that they are happy to live in and are of high quality and to offer opportunities that support life choices and life chances.



YOUR LETTERS

The creative dream is still prospering

I FEEL I should respond to last week's lead story in Yourshepway, 'Artist loses heart in creative dream'.

Firstly, although Neville Pundole was not a tenant of the Creative Foundation, I personally attended exhibitions in his gallery a number of times and I know other Creative Foundation staff and trustees have done so, too.

Secondly, Mr Pundole suggests our rents are unrealistically high, but we have recently compared our retail rents with those in other parts of Kent and have found they remain highly competitive.

Although we are sorry to lose Wild For Flowers and Moda as tenants of the Creative Foundation, we are delighted that, in addition to opening Quarterhouse, a further nine tenants joined us in 2009:

- Number 11 Restaurant at 11/15 The Old High Street.
- Retrotech at 46 The Old High Street.
- The Hair Studio at 52 The Old High Street.
- Home Ground Café-Bar at 41 The Old High Street.
- The Bank Bar at 46 Tontine Street.
- Shake Shed at 17 The Old High Street.
- Cube Ceramics at 29 Tontine Street.
- The Soap Parlour at 44 The Old High Street.
- Quintessential at 65 The Old High Street.

More shops and galleries are planned to open in the spring.

The Creative Quarter is developing well despite the economic downturn and I urge readers to pay a visit to Tontine Street and The Old High Street to see the changes we have been making.

Nick Ewbank, artistic director
The Creative Foundation

Let the battle of words commence

THE long-awaited return tête-à-tête aired in public between that prolific letter-writer Ray Duff and Harry Williams of the British National Party has at last begun. How I have looked forward to this.

Both contestants (sorry, participants) weigh in at roughly the same age, but I feel that this time there should be a couple of ground rules:

- 1) No personal attacks (below the belt).
 - 2) No politics (also below the belt as this subject transcends the entire political spectrum), as indeed does membership of FLAG.
 - 3) Declarations of interest: Mr Williams is a declared member of the BNP.
- Mr Duff, it is known, was once a member of the Labour Party, but due to circumstances beyond his control now has no political declaration to make, to my knowledge.
- For the record I am a proud Tipperaryman who has lived here for 50 years.
- I also declare that I am a paid-up member of the Labour Party and definitely not a supporter of the BNP.

So gentlemen, this time let's have a rational contest (sorry, debate) based on fact, not fiction or imagination.

Now go to your corners (computers) and come out prepared to defend yourselves – your beliefs – at all times.

Michael Walsh
Spokesman for FLAG

How much did we really lose in crash?

YET again the Conservative leader of Kent County Council has sought to blame a threatened last-minute council tax rise on Government (Kent on Sunday, January 10) for not paying everything he demands for asylum-seekers. Yet again the head of the UK Border Agency says the agency made a fair offer to Kent but, if you can show where you get your latest figures from, please get in touch.

What KCC's Conservatives seem less keen to talk about is the recent decision of one of the failed Icelandic banks (Glitnir) not to treat British local councils as preferential creditors.

KCC had £15 million invested in Glitnir when it went under.

The decision by Glitnir's winding-up board will see only 31 per cent of our money being returned, rather than the 100 per cent expected for preferential creditors. That's a loss to the Kent council taxpayer of just over £10 million.

Of course, UK councils are challenging Glitnir's decision in the Icelandic courts. But then, others are challenging the decision of the other Icelandic bank's board (Landsbanki) to treat British local government

as preferred creditors. We may lose half the Landsbanki money. Another £8m.

One day we may find out how much the county council lost in Iceland, but that day looks further away than ever.

In the meantime, KCC Conservatives will blame everybody but themselves for their council tax demands.

Cllr Mike Eddy (Labour)
Dover District Council

Science fact not fiction, thank you

CLIMATE change must be tackled properly from now, or it will surely deal with us.

The grandfather of climate science, Prof James Hansen, has warned strongly against the carbon market scheme to have come before parliaments and he may well be right.

The scheme looks more like greenwash business as usual than anything really 'green'.

He also said he would rather the Copenhagen conference had failed and needed to be rescheduled as he considered that a much stronger approach was required, pointing to how Churchill dealt with the Nazis and Abraham Lincoln dealt with the slavery issue.

Indeed, with the latest info on global warming changes, we may well be forced to take such action. Better strong deals now instead of more compromises.

Meanwhile, the climate-deniers are trying their usual cobblers.

Australian 'scientist' Ian Plimer, whose book was roundly trashed by science and reviewers earlier in 2008, is now saying that it's all a tax hike.



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Sad, that, when he and they all seem to forget the wastage of tax money on things like ID cards, nuclear power and Trident missiles, further foreign adventurism, MPs' expenses and the UK taxpayer in hock by around £850 billion (£40,000 per family) after all the bank bailouts.

Much of the billions wasted on the bank bailouts could still be used for the benefit of the ecosystem instead, both here and elsewhere. It could further help change our society to be more beneficial for all ends.

Indeed, climate-change deniers seem rather like Creationists, who even 150 years after the Darwin-Wallace theory of evolution still cling to absurd notions about our existence. Science deals very largely with probabilities rather than the certainties of politics, religion and businesses – that's why they call discoveries 'theory of' to allow for further information.

Meanwhile, on Romney Marsh, councillor Tim Prater's proposal for a local Eden Project is an excellent idea, though I'd be a bit concerned over the flooding risk in the area so it may need to be sited nearer the escarpment.

Otherwise it has apparently been revealed that small-scale green energy schemes could produce more power than two nuclear stations; I refer people to the Friends of the Earth website for more on that as I've always suggested this as alternatives for Lydd airport and another nuclear plant.

It is time for major changes towards our views of the environment and towards each other as human beings as well as the other

plants and animals we share the planet with.

Let's also recall the 'view from the south' of Brazil's President Lula, who has clearly stated, ahead of the talks, that the historically rapacious West must pay up to help them change and develop sustainably.

Time we did so, as well as stopping grabbing more of the largely depleted fossil fuels like oil, gas, coal and uranium, saving them for future generations if they do wish and switching fully to renewables and social policies that help rather than hinder things as they've done up until now.

Ray Duff, Folkestone

Strong the only winners at climate change summit

BROKENHAGEN – this is how Friends of the Earth have described last month's failed climate-change summit.

Copenhagen was the time and the place for a strong climate-change treaty to gain agreement; instead all the world got was a worthless vote to 'note' a political agreement.

This year the world's richest countries, especially the US and China, need to show real leadership and turn this weak agreement into a legally-binding treaty.

This year's climate-change summits in Germany and Mexico are the places where short-term interests must be set aside and real leadership must be shown and a strong legally-binding treaty agreed.

Stuart Cox, East Kent Friends of the Earth



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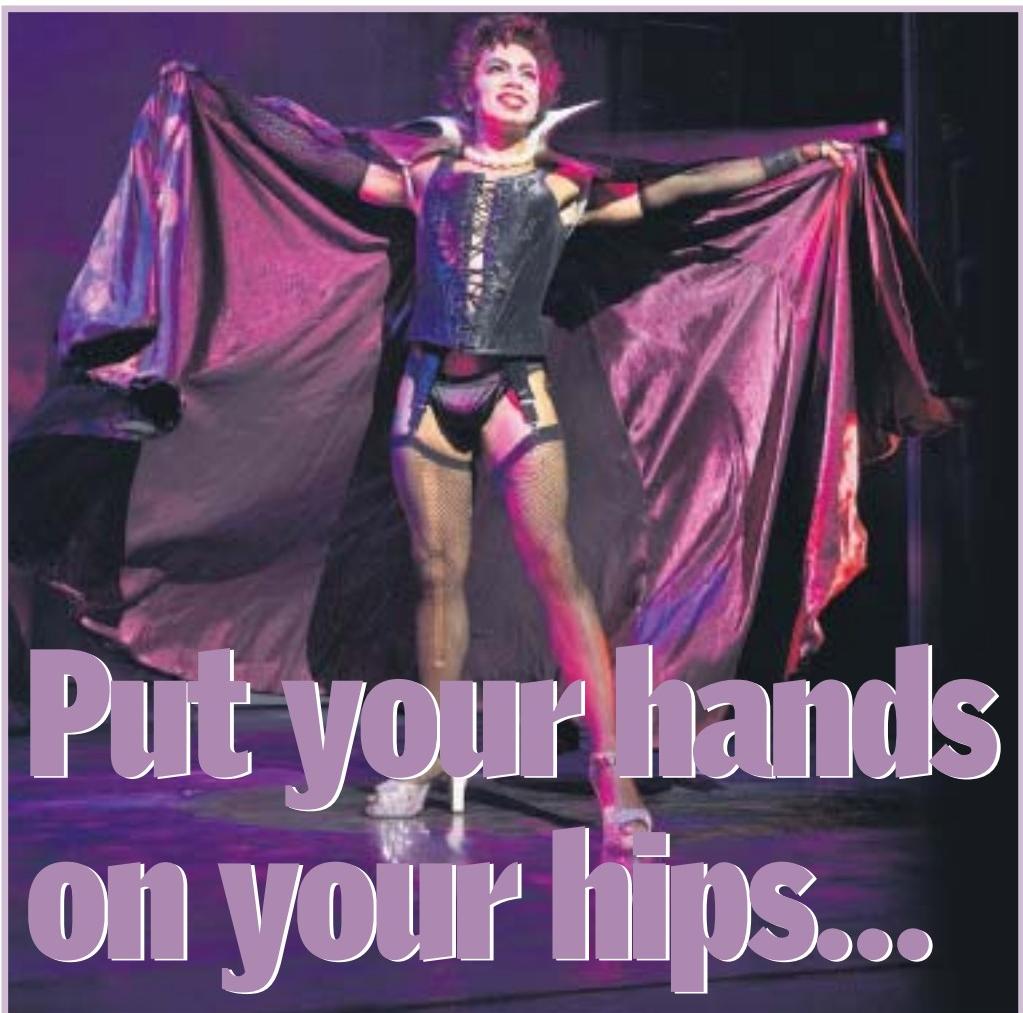
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Put your hands on your hips...

Party with Frank 'n' Furter and friends when the Rocky Horror Show arrives at The Orchard. It's coming soon...

PREPARE to party in the company of a sweet transvestite when The Rocky Horror Show rolls into town.

For more than 30 years, the sumptuous Frank 'n' Furter has been seducing his fellow characters and audiences all over the world.

Created by Richard O'Brien, this rocking musical features unforgettable songs, mind-blowing characters and a famous dance routine which has been filling dance floors for decades.

The charismatic lead figure is played by David Bedella, an Olivier Award-winning actor whose previous credits include television drama Holby City, musicals Chess and Hedwig & the Angry Inch and the controversial Jerry Springer The Opera.

The Rocky Horror Show is a wild and inventive show that follows the exploits of an engaged couple, Brad and Janet, who find themselves stranded in the middle of nowhere when the car breaks down.

They are forced to seek refuge at a nearby castle, but the whiter-than-white couple soon find themselves in a world they had never dreamed of until that fateful night.

The castle is owned by mad scientist Frank 'n' Furter and from the moment they are greeted at the door by a hunchbacked butler, Brad and Janet fear that all is not as it should be. It turns out that they have dis-

turbed the scientist in the middle of a horrifying experiment – he believes he has discovered the secret of life.

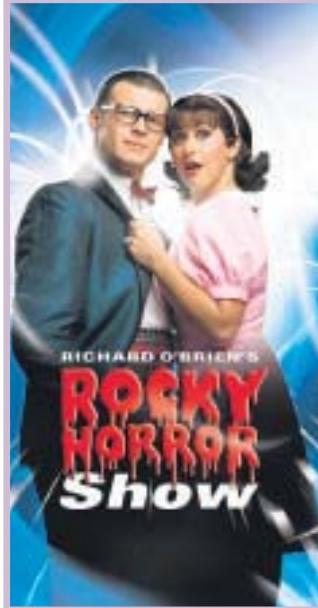
Frank 'n' Furter is pleased with his creation, the blond and hunky Frank 'n' Furter, but he commits terrible acts in his pursuit of scientific advancement.

Forced to stay the night at the castle, Brad and Janet are given separate bedrooms. But it soon appears that Frank 'n' Furter, a bisexual transvestite, has more than just laboratory experiments on his mind.

Featuring unforgettable songs such as the Time Warp, Sweet Transvestite and Dammit, Janet, this show is a great night out for seasoned fans and newcomers alike.

Fancy-dress is encouraged, so unleash your wild side and get ready for a night you will never forget.

Tickets are priced from £18, concessions available. Performances start at 8pm, Monday to Thursday, and 6pm and 9pm on Friday and Saturday. To book, call the box office on 01322 220000 or visit the website at www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.



ROCKY HORROR SHOW

Monday, January 25,
to Saturday, January 30
The Orchard Theatre, Dartford



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JANE CONNOLLY
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STEPHEN TRIFFIT

Sunday, February 12
Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone

SPEND an evening with Ol' Blue Eyes when top impersonator Stephen Triffitt leads a trip down Memory Lane.

The audience will be transported back in time to Frank Sinatra's most famous live performance, at the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas, which he described as "probably the most exciting engagement I have ever done in my life".

Capturing the sight and sound of the singer at his best, this is an unforgettable show that will delight Sinatra fans of all ages.

Backed by the legendary Count Basie Orchestra, Sinatra gave a performance in the renowned Copa Room that epitomised the cool sophistication of the era.

With this stunning produc-



tion, Triffitt recreates that evening with some of Sinatra's best-loved hits such as Under My Skin and Come Fly With Me, along with famous saloon ballads and less well-known songs.

A full 17-piece big-band orchestra accompanies him

as he pays tribute to the king of swing and keeps the magic of the genre alive.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £19/£17. You can book online at www.leascliffhall.org.uk, or phone the box office on 0844 847 1776.



KITTIE

Tuesday, January 19
The Westcoast, Margate

DISCOVER why the members of Canadian metal band Kittie are no pussycats when they rock The Westcoast next week.

The all-female group were founded by sisters Mercedes and Morgan Lander in 1996 and within three years they experienced significant success. The band shot to fame with their debut album Brackish, which featured the massive hit single Spit, and they became stars while still in their mid-teens.

They were asked to support Slipknot on the infamous band's UK tour in the early 2000s

and went on to appear at festivals in America and Europe. Kittie have performed in Japan, Mexico and Australia, as well as gracing the pages of numerous music magazines.

With their charismatic stage presence and dazzling performances, Kittie have really got their claws into the competitive world of metal and should prove to be an entertaining headline act at The Westcoast.

Support will be provided by Malefice and It Dies Today, two great bands who should not be missed.

Doors open at 7.30pm and advance tickets cost £12.50. To book, visit www.westcoastlive.co.uk, email westcoastbar1@aol.com or phone 07938 090700.

CHORISTERS OF CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

Saturday, January 16
St Laurence Church, Ramsgate

EXPERIENCE the magical sound of young voices at a concert by the Choristers of Canterbury Cathedral.

Boys aged between nine and 12 will be visiting Ramsgate this weekend to demonstrate the wonderful sound that has taken them as far afield as Canada and the US.

These dedicated and talented young choristers have appeared on television and radio, recorded CDs and performed at high-profile occasions during their careers.

The boys live in the beautiful Cathedral Choir House in Canterbury and attend St



Edmund's School, with the Dean and Chapter contributing two-thirds of the fees. They receive fantastic musical training, which includes learning to play at least two instruments and choir practice takes place twice every day.

From singing during a royal visit to performing for thousands at Canterbury

Cathedral Christmas services, the choristers enjoy remarkable experiences that they will carry with them throughout their lives.

The concert starts at 7pm and includes works by Purcell, Fauré, Stanford and Rutter. Priced at £5, tickets are available from the Parish Office on 01843 592478.

LIVE AND LOUD

Look who's playing indie covers in River

INDULGE in a guilty pleasure when five-piece band Eyelash Guilt perform in River later this week.

The female-fronted rock and indie covers-band play music by Black Sabbath, Foo Fighters, Kings Of Leon, Katy Perry and more. Find out about the band at www.eyelashguilt.com and see them at the Dublin Man O' War in Lower Road on Friday. Phone the pub on 01304 822509.

Sabotage will punk things up on Saturday

FOR a great night of live music, catch Sabotage performing live in Dover on Saturday.

The five-piece band play a variety of classic pop/punk, indie and rock hits.

You can find out more about them by visiting their band website at www.sabotagetheband.co.uk.

Sabotage will be playing at the King Edward VII in Goshen Road at 9pm.

Just say XYZ to head back to 80s sounds

STEP back in time and relive the greatest hits of the 80s in the company of XYZ.

From some of the decade's classic songs to some less obvious treats, the band perform great tracks to a high standard.

You can find out more about them at www.xyzband.info.

They can be seen at The Archer in Sandwich Road, Whitfield, on Saturday. Phone the pub on 01304 825890.

Partake in a delicious pud at the White Cliffs

BANISH the winter chills by indulging in the Great British Pudding Revival at the White Cliffs of Dover coffee shop.

Every Tuesday and Thursday in January and February, classic home-cooked puddings will be available for £3 from 11am to 3pm. Normal admission fees apply, but booking is not required.

To find out more, call 01304 202756 or email whitecliffs@nationaltrust.org.uk.

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ON GENERAL RELEASE

SEX & DRUGS & ROCK & ROLL (15)



Distinguished by an incendiary lead performance from Andy Serkis, *Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll* is a biopic of 1970s punk pioneer Ian Dury that is as unconventional and fantastical as the man himself.

THE ROAD (15)



The future isn't bright, not in the slightest, in John Hillcoat's Oscar-tipped, post-apocalyptic thriller, adapted by Joe Penhall from the novel by Cormac McCarthy, who also wrote *No Country For Old Men*.

IT'S COMPLICATED (15)



Actress Meryl Streep affirms her credentials as one of the best comic actresses working today in *It's Complicated* and Alec Baldwin is irresistible as the bullish alpha male determined to turn back time.

Spierig's blood-sucking world is drained of plot

■ BY DAMON SMITH

"LIFE'S a bitch then you don't die," grumbles a blood-thirsty vampire in *Daybreakers*.

Set nine years hence, in a world decimated by a mysterious plague which has transformed the vast majority of the population into fanged fiends, Peter and Michael Spierig's sci-fi thriller injects fresh blood into the creatures of the night.

The film retains the familiar iconography: the vampires have no reflection; humans slay bloodsuckers with a stake through the heart; and the carnivorous beasties fry to a crisp in direct sunlight.

Environmental

All that is missing is a bulb of garlic, a protective church cross and a couple of busty wenches, heaving to be bitten.

However, there's nothing remotely camp or erotic about the Spierigs' vampires: they are everyday folk who commute to work in the dead of night and queue for coffee infused with blood.

Humans account for five per cent of the population and are captured by the vampires to be drained of their blood.

In a clear nod to current environmental concerns, this precious resource has almost run dry and the dominant species faces possible extinction unless it can engineer a blood substitute.

Undead scientist Edward (Ethan Hawke), who was turned by his soldier brother Frankie, is a leading researcher at Bromley Marks, the world leader in blood pharmacy, run by the conniving Charles Bromley (Sam Neill).

Working alongside colleague Christopher,



HUMAN TOUCH: Ethan Hawke plays undead scientist Edward in *Daybreakers*; he is trying to create a blood substitute

Edward struggles to create a stable, synthetic substitute. Sympathetic to the human cause, the scientists meet human survivor Audrey, who in turn introduces Edward to resistance leader Elvis (Willem Dafoe).

They have an alternative solution to the blood crisis: cure vampirism.

Daybreakers opens with an infected girl writing a suicide note and waiting for the sun to rise.

Stylish credits quickly transport us to April 2019 and an earthy colour palette of greys, browns and black: it's cold, clinical and far removed from the gothic splendor of bygone vampire yarns.

The neat central premise provides plenty of scope for the Spierigs to create a believable and detailed universe but after an hour or so,

the narrative runs out of steam, most notably in the bungled relationship between Bromley and his daughter Alison.

Special effects are slathered in blood and goo and the directors orchestrate a fast-paced chase, which sees Edward scorched by rays of sunlight from the bullet holes in his car.

Hawke and his co-stars are suitably lifeless – Neill arches an eyebrow every now and then – while Dafoe appropriates all of the best lines, including a hysterical analogy between human survival in a vampire world and sleeping with a particularly fragrant prostitute.

An imminent, gory death is no time to lose your sense of humour.

DAYBREAKERS Certificate 15

YOU CAN WATCH ANY OF THESE FILM PREVIEWS OF THE LATEST MOVIES BY LOGGING ON TO LEISURE TV @ yourkenttv.co.uk



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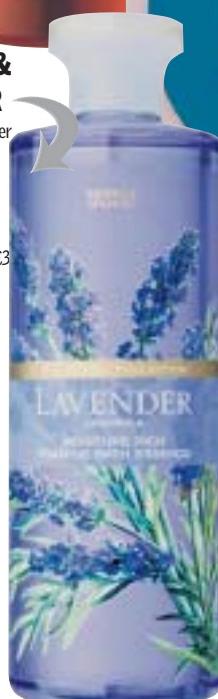
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**IN STORE**

Indoor market perfect for winter shopping

ESCAPE the high street and discover some unique products at the Pantiles' indoor craft market.

Whether you are looking for gifts or ideas for your own home, the market has a wealth of interesting crafts on offer at the shopping area in Tunbridge Wells. The event runs at the Corn Exchange from 10am to 4pm on Saturday.

For more information about events at the Pantiles, visit www.thepantilesonline.co.uk or call 01892 515675.

Turning the pages of Snodland's history

USING beautiful photographs, local historian Dr Andrew Ashbee presents a fascinating history of Snodland.

In his new book, Snodland and District Through Time, Ashbee invites readers to take a journey through the decades. Find out more about life in the area throughout the 20th century and into the 21st century with this book, which is full of well-kept images and intriguing history.

Snodland and District Through Time, by Amberley is priced at £12.99.

Dyson shop will suck you in at Bluewater

SPRING cleaning will be a breeze now that Dyson has opened its first 'pop up' shop at Bluewater.

The temporary shop space is open until Friday, January 22 and sells vacuum cleaners, handhelds and the new Dyson Air Multiplier fan. Shoppers can try out the devices, learn how the products work and speak to the experts about Dyson's range.

For more information visit www.bluewater.co.uk.

Hurry to get your sale bargains at the outlet

BUY top brands on a budget with the continuing sale at Ashford Designer Outlet.

At the time of writing, Bench men's T-shirts were reduced from £22 to just £8, while Toshiba is offering six months' worth of free cinema tickets with any portable DVD product. There are big savings to be found at Mamas & Papas, but hurry because that sale ends on Friday.

For full details of sales and offers at Ashford Designer Outlet, visit the website at www.ashforddesigneroutlet.com.

It's going to get chilly in your Waitrose store

EMBRACE the ice age at Waitrose as the supermarket prepares to relaunch its frozen food products.

From delicious meal ideas, such as Beef in Ale (£3.95), to handy sauces like Pesto (£3.75), the freezer aisle is being transformed into an essential part of the kitchen store cupboard. Knock up the Four Mushroom Risotto (£6.49) from frozen, or the perfect breakfast with Six Pains au Chocolat (£1.99). The new range will be launched on Monday, January 25.

Thanet's Live Music Scene

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Saturday 23rd January

Jeb

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Saturday 23rd January

Crazy Train

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Saturday 30th January

Blow

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Saturday 30th January

Purity

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Saturday 6th February

Wheres My Thing

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Saturday 6th February

Phatt B-Stards

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Friday 12th February

Damage Case

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 13th February

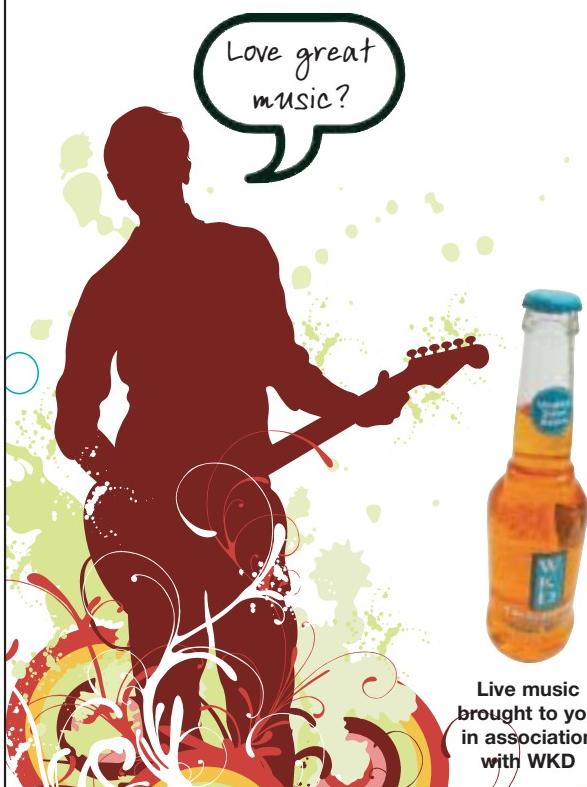
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Saturday 13th February

Hard Road Blues Band

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713



yourmusic

Week-long birthday party ends great year at Forum

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

A WEEK-long live music party will be held at The Forum this month to mark the venue's 17th birthday.

The celebrations start on Saturday, January 23, when Spycatcher – featuring members of punk-rockers Gallows – headline.

Support comes from The Painted Smiles, made up of Sixth and Unkle musicians, and Kent-based up-and-comers Feed The Rhino.

The Tunbridge Wells venue's anniversary offering also features indie-rockers Dogs, who have toured with the likes of Paul Weller, The Enemy and Razorlight, with the London outfit set to perform on Saturday, January 30.

The line-up also features Allegro, Filthy Nights and Medway-based four-piece Needs Must, who recorded their debut video at The Command House, Chatham, at the weekend.

Monday night's entertainment comes by way of The Forum's ninth battle of the bands competition and Wednesday sees talented singer-songwriter Ellie Goulding take to the stage.

A secret special guest plays on Tuesday.

Forum promoter Chris Pritchard said he was hoping to build on last year's success.

He said: "The Forum is Kent's longest-running venue and we have had an incredible 2009. We are lucky to attract some of the biggest new and classic names in the popular music scene, such as White Lies, Graham Coxon, Ash and Mumford & Sons.

"We are also lucky enough to have one of the strongest selections of local music outside of London, including Tom Williams And The Boat, Klaus Says Buy The Record, Everything



Everything, Rachel's Got A Flamethrower and Joeyfat.

"Hopefully we can improve on what has been a tremendous year for The Forum."

For details, visit www.twforum.co.uk.

Saturday, January 23: Spycatcher, The Painted Smiles, Feed The Rhino

Monday, January 25: Battle Of The Bands, The Antics, Black Hawks, The Separation

Wednesday, January 27: Ellie Goulding, Klaus Says Buy The Record, The Help Movement

Thursday, January 28: Secret Guests, Son Of Kirk, Tom Williams

Friday, January 29: Heartbreak DJ set (Ali Renault), Doop DJs

Saturday, January 30: Dogs, Allegro, Needs Must, Filthy Nights

HIGHLIGHTS: Headline acts Spycatcher (above) and London-based indie-rockers Dogs will be at The Forum



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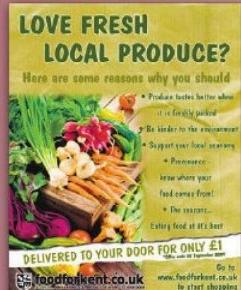
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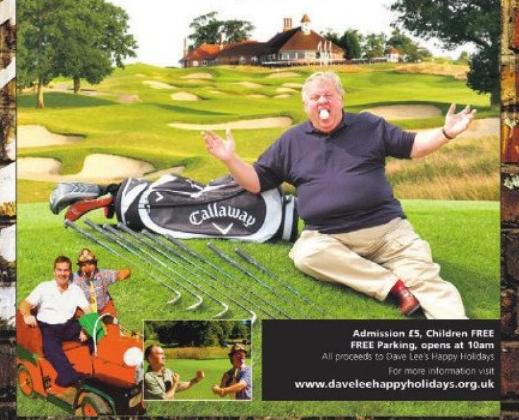


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yourtimeout

YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

TAKE ME OUT

ITV 1, 7.30pm, Saturday

THE TV dating show must be a hard thing to get right.

Let's face it, going out on the pull is a national pastime – it always has been and always will be – but there are very few shows that have really addressed the subject. It must be the TV equivalent of trying to nail down jelly.

Blind Date is the most obvious example, but despite dragging on for decades, that was hardly edgy or indeed relevant – especially as it was so obviously staged.

Then there was Singled Out on MTV and Chris Evans's ill-fated Boys And Girls, which sank without trace in the early noughties.

Other than that, I'm on to even more obscure shows, and that's just weird for a subject that 99 per cent of us are interested in.

I mean, if you're not already in a relationship, then you're probably thinking about getting in one – and setting up other people is a sport for some.

So fair play to ITV, who have taken a run at it in the form of Take Me Out.

With lad-in-chief Paddy McGuinness at the wheel we meet 30 single women who set about running the rule over several guys hoping to secure a date.

After he has been probed and verbally prodded by all concerned, the girls decide whether to let their interest slide and buzz out, or stay in the game.

Particularly cruel is the way that many drop out as soon as he says "Hello, my name is...", showing that when it comes to judging a book by its cover women can be just as bad as men.



PLAYING CUPID: Paddy McGuinness hosts ITV's newest dating programme Take Me Out

After the set amount of rounds our subject must choose which girl to take out from those who remain, adding a bit of tension to matters.

Credit to the guys who come forward, as watching the lights go out on your love life on national telly must be a bit embarrassing.

One bloke's humiliation was total when he ended up with nobody declaring an interest.

In true Blind Date-style we get an update on how the big dates went the following week.

It's hardly highbrow entertainment, but it's jovial enough and makes a change from the endless stream of Saturday night talent shows we have been bombarded with in recent months, even if it is, in truth, a bit of a meat market.

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YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

YOUR mind, body and spirit are intimately connected. If you don't feel well, it may be because you're not emotionally fulfilled. Spending more time on pursuits that make you happy is essential. Steer clear of people whose religious or political beliefs are offensive to you.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

RECENTLY, you've been neglecting friends, choosing to focus on a lover or youngster's needs instead. Now you've got to rejoin your social circle. Of course, you may be met with mixed reviews. 2010 is a year for building bridges and strengthening ties.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

A TENSE family situation comes to an end. Moving away from meddling relatives comes as a huge relief. Check out the chances of doing some voluntary work, taking a challenging job or opening your own business are all positive ideas. Reach for the stars.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

THIS is the time to put an end to an image that no longer serves your interests. You're tired of being the one everyone comes to for guidance. Pursuing your own star should be your first priority. If that means shaking off some overly dependent people, so be it.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

CAREER matters could come to a head in 2010. It may be necessary to decide between work and family. A once in a lifetime opportunity depends on your moving to a different location. Putting this much distance between you and your loved ones makes you nervous.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

AN intimate relationship needs to undergo some serious changes. The problem is, this person has taken all of your sacrifices for granted. You have to consider whether you want to stay committed to such a relationship. Set the tone for the coming year by putting your needs first.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

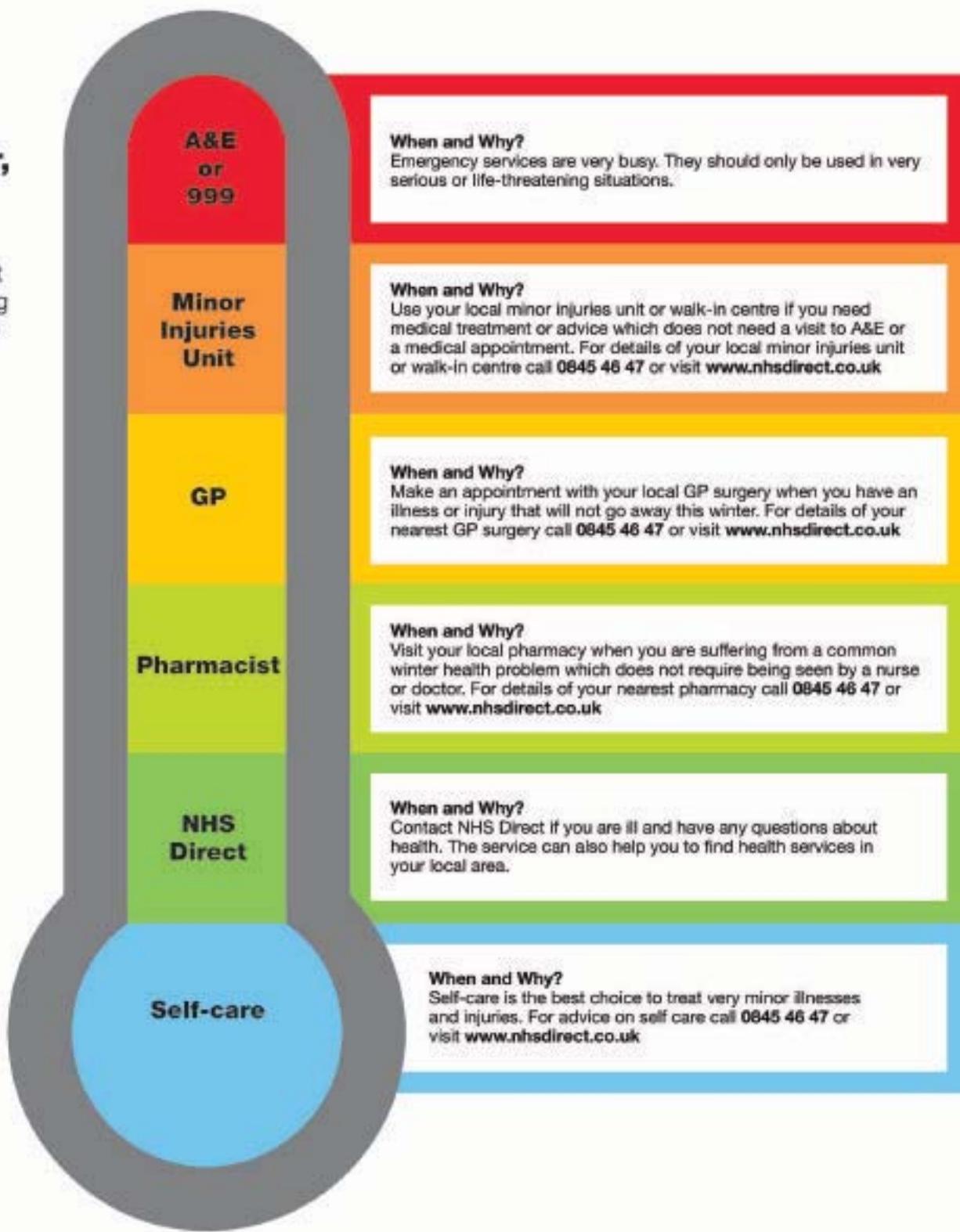
Calls cost 75p per minute. Service provided by g8wave London N7

The image displays three views of the Your Local TV Online website. The top view shows a desktop browser with multiple video thumbnails and navigation menus. The middle view shows a smartphone displaying a video player with a play button and a progress bar. The bottom view shows a larger screenshot of the website with a detailed look at a specific video page, including a video player, comments section, and user profile information.



Award Winning Company

If you become unwell or are injured this winter, a range of NHS services exist to help you get well. Choosing the right one will ensure you receive the best possible treatment, allowing in-demand services to help those in most need.



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Preserved in splendid isolation

■ BY VICTORIA SHAW

NORTHERN Cyprus, with its unspoiled natural beauty, has much to attract Britons, whether you want to explore the coastlines, relax on the uncluttered beaches or investigate ancient ruins.

At the crossroads of three continents, Cyprus is known for its natural romance and charm. According to legend, it was once given to Cleopatra by Julius Caesar as a token of his affection.

The laidback Turkish side of the island has few traces of mass tourism. Northern Cyprus enjoys long, hot Mediterranean summers, when temperatures reach a very pleasant 35C, while winters are mostly mild.

The unhurried pace is reflected in its nightlife, so think more of cosy bars and restaurants than the pounding club scene.

An obvious starting point in the north for any visitor is Kyrenia, with a distinctive horse-shoe-shaped harbour boasting colourful fishing boats and a lively yet relaxed atmosphere.

You can enjoy an evening drink on the water's edge and take in the unhurried surroundings. Decent lunches, with drinks, cost little more than £8 per head.

A few miles east of Kyrenia, stands the gothic abbey at Bellapais. The village is immortalised in the book *Bitter Lemons Of Cyprus* by Lawrence Durrell, brother of naturalist Gerald Durrell, which recounts his tales of moving to Cyprus in the 1950s.

The main part was built between 1198 and 1205 by King Hugh III of France, with Italian frescoes at the entrance of the chapel dating from the 15th century.



RELAXING: The harbour at Kyrenia is a great place to spend an evening. Right, the gothic abbey at Bellapais

Travellers can take their time wandering through the narrow streets of Bellapais, with its boutiques and restaurants. In the main square, where locals stop and chat, stands what Durrell named 'The Tree of Idleness'.

More energetic visitors can make the exhilarating walk up to St Hilarion Castle. The views are stunning, and a small cafe near the entrance is a great stop before the return trip.

Local food takes in a mix of influences. The traditional mezze, made up of hot and cold appetisers including salads, meat and fish, is a particular attraction. Meals tend to be washed down with a Turkish coffee.

For another authentic experience, try a traditional Turkish-style massage. Mine was fairly vigorous and without any of the lotions and potions you might find in a British spa, but it left me feeling great.

But while the natural beauty of Northern Cyprus is undeniable, its political past casts a shadow on the island.

Cut off from the Greek side since 1974, the north has been in political limbo for decades. Turkey grabbed it in response to a Greek-backed military coup aimed at union with Athens, but Turkish occupation has seen the area shunned by the international community, limiting cultural and economic links.

In July, Turkish Cypriots celebrated 35 years since the arrival of Turkish troops, while Greek Cypriots on the other side marked the 'black anniversary' with wailing sirens.

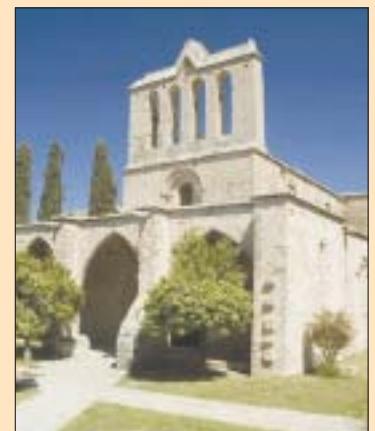
A 'Green Line' divides the two parts from Morphou through Nicosia to Famagusta, and the contrast between the more well-heeled south with its trendy boutiques compared with the less-developed north is marked.

FACT FILE: NORTHERN CYPRUS

Time difference	+Two hours (GMT)
Capital	Nicosia
Language	Turkish
Population	270,000
Currency	Turkish Lira
Religion	Muslim

Travel facts

Victoria Shaw was a guest of Direct Traveller, which offers seven nights' half-board at the Malpas Hotel from January 1-March 31 from £429, including flights ex-London, transfers and upgrade to seaview room. Supplements on direct flights from regional UK airports start at about £20. A five-night half-board stay during winter starts at £1,056, including flights and return transfers. Direct Traveller reservations: 0845 123 5383 and www.directtraveller.com



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WOMEN seeking men

MAKE IT LAST Slim female, 25, 5'10", long brown hair and blue eyes, caring and social, likes clubs, cinema, seeking a kind male, 30-45 for a relationship. Box 461558 ①

MATCH OF THE DAY! Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5'12", a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man to be her soulmate. Box 446494 ①

NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT... Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5'5", loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, male friend! Looking for honest guy with GSoh, to get to know. Box 880105 ①

LOOKIN' A GUY WHO'S EASY ON THE EYES 25yr old female, 5'8", medium-curvy build, N/S, enjoys reading, painting, cinema, walks, WLTM tall, attractive male, 23-32, for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 426464 ①

BRING ME SUNSHINE Outgoing, fun female, 28, seeks outgoing, fun guy to make me laugh and share the good times with. Box 882511 ①

WILLING TO BE THE ONE Loving single mom, 29, shoulder length black hair, brown eyes, 5'13", slim and sexy, part-time carer, looking for reliable, loving male. Canterbury. Box 464326 ①

_SOUND GOOD? Social lady, 29, likes walks, swimming, vgsoh, like to meet a man, 30-55 for lots of fun. Brighton. Box 463984 ①

IS ANYONE OUT THERE? 31yr old easygoing, independent female, WLTM cuddly tello to enjoy the finer things in life with, leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879931 ①

A FAIRYTALE ENDING! Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek, 5'8", short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957 ①

HORSES FOR COURSES... Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384034 ①

HAPPY DAYS! Attractive, fun-loving female, 35, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tenteridge Wells, Box 308734 ①

FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME... Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5'13", shoulder length curly hair, enjoys eating out, cinema and I'm looking for a friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039 ①

SEALED WITH A KISS Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wine and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079 ①

WHAT YOU SEE... Young looking 36 year old, 5'4", brown eyes, slim, one daughter, hard working, very sincere and caring, genuine, GSoh, seek similar male 33-43. Rochester. Box 460307

STARRY NIGHTS Hello I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair enjoy swimming nights in/out looking for a caring man to share the best thing in life. Box 878378

I LIKE DRIVING IN MY CAR Honest, caring woman, 36, 5'5", slim, blue eyes, I'm caring, honest, have four children, enjoys drives, horse riding. Maidstone. Box 456159 ①

LOVE TO LOVE YOU Lovely female, 36, 5'4", medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

HISTORIC MEETING? Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, sees kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693 ①



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FAMILY ORIENTATED

Eastbourne based woman, 39, 5'8", slim/medium build. I'm a single mum, and enjoy cooking, music, family life. If you like the same, get in touch! Box 464034

AN AFRICAN DIAMOND 38yr old African girl, likes cooking, going out, watching films and dancing, seeking a loving and caring boy for companionship and more. Box 446767 ①

SHOW ME HEAVEN Black lady, 38yr old, enjoys swimming, films and bird watching. Fairly new to the area, WLTM a mate for friendship and maybe romance. Box 441608 ①

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out. WLTM a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 424551 ①

TAKE A LITTLE TIME Social lady, 41, 5'3", gsoh, likes family life, going out, cinema, walks, staying in, seeking a fun male for company. Sheerness. Box 461145 ①

LOVE IS ALL AROUND Happy-go-lucky blonde, 42, blue eyes, hard-working, love cuttings, looking for a nice, genuine guy for relationship. Bromley. Box 454517

NO REGrets Bubbly, separated female, single mum, 40, slim build, love meeting new people and enjoying life, looking for an understanding man for happiness. Box 895246 ①

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YOU'RE THE ONE THAT I

WANT Fun-loving lady, 42, 5'7", brown hair, green eyes, enjoys being out doors, horse riding, pubs, cinema and sharing a bottle of wine, WLTM you! Box 865096

TALL ORDER Curvy lady, 5'9", 43yrs old, blonde hair/green eyes, I live in Kent in Deal, I'm, down-to-earth and like being out and about. Box 456020 ①

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5'10", likes bowling, eating in/out etc, looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with good friendship/relationship. Box 450348 ①

CUTE AS CAN BE Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897983 ①

DON'T LET ME DOWN Pretty, black female, 38, 5'4", like football, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446684 ①

EASY TO LOVE Lovely African female, 39, 5'4", likes football, socialising, cinema, and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male for a LTR. Ashford. Box 460968 ①

SEIZE THE DAY Loving female, 36, 5'4", brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 ①

ANOTHER CHAPTER Hard working PA, 43, single mum, grey-green-blue eyes, loves socialising and enjoying life, seeks loyal, honest male to find love with. Sittingbourne. Box 461037 ①

DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU? Single mum, 42, from Ashford, 5'9", dark hair/eyes, likes wine bars, pubs, out and keeping fit, looking for a caring and fun-loving gent, 5'5"-4'. Box 461129 ①

SWEET MINDS Single female, 49, enjoy a varied social life going out, tenpin bowling, out for meals, cinema, travelling, looking to meet someone with similar interests. Eastbourne. Box 866380 ①

NORMAL GAL Female, 48, divorced, happy, looking for the one, friendship, laughter, looking for smart, genuine, kind tall honest man, age under 50 is all I ask! Maidstone. Box 486226 ①

STIMULATING COMPANY Bubbly, caring, single mum, 46, WLTM nice male, for good conversations, company, and maybe more. Box 396829 ①

ARE YOU LOVING AND CARING? Young 48 year old, loving, caring, very bubbly, 5'5", medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes clubs, cinema, eating out, possibly work, good company. Box 434089 ①

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS! Smart petite lady, 55, 5'4", tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795 ①

MAKING A NEW FRIEND Fun-loving lady, 58, 5'4", dark hair, single mum! Likes countryside walks, reading, cooking and cosy nights in, similar male. Folkestone. Box 464020 ①

MAKE IT ENJOYABLE Pretty, young-looking, slender woman, 49, dark-haired seeks reliable gentleman, 25-49 for a loving relationship. Rochester. Box 460686 ①

HOW YOU DOING? Attractive, curvy single mum, 44, kind, genuine, loyal and loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 459128 ①

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS Laid-back single mum, very bubbly, outgoing and intelligent, 43, enjoys social life, drinks, meals, cinema, looking to start afresh with someone new, easygoing and life-loving. Box 446102 ①

GENUINE REPLIES ONLY Bubbly female, 44, Brunette, n/s, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 449555

ENJOY LIFE TO THE FULL Young-looking 46yr old female, 5'4", slim, blonde, non-smoker, affectionate, loyal, caring, seeking a male, 40-45, up to 5'7", to share life with. Ashford/Maidstone area please. Box 461938 ①

HERE AND NOW Outgoing lady, 50, enjoys walks along the beach, nights out and in with a quiet bottle of wine, seeks man to love forever. Box 449524 ①

LOVELY BUBBLY Short 51yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with gsoh to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 884113 ①

A REAL DIAMOND African lady, 47, honest, loving and caring, enjoy most things in life, looking for a male, 50+, for a LTR. Canterbury. Box 460999 ①

MY PRINCE? Dog lover, into sports, walks, motorbikes, GSOH, female, 47, pretty, long dark hair, looking for knight in shining armour! East Sussex area. Box 872961 ①

ETERNALLY YOURS Easygoing woman, likes most things in life; country walks, films, cinema, cooking. I'm 46, 5'12", medium build, WLTM genuine, happy guy, easygoing and fun. Box 445635 ①

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, WLTM a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 424551 ①

TAKE A LITTLE TIME Social lady, 41, 5'3", gsoh, likes family life, going out, cinema, walks, staying in, seeking a fun male for company. Sheerness. Box 461145 ①

LOVE IS ALL AROUND Happy-go-lucky blonde, 42, blue eyes, hard-working, love cuttings, looking for a nice, genuine guy for relationship. Bromley. Box 454517

NO REGrets Bubbly, separated female, single mum, 40, slim build, love meeting new people and enjoying life, looking for an understanding man for happiness. Box 895246 ①

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?

CARING cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal male 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366 ①

HELP ME OPEN UP Easygoing lady, 46, dark brown/blue eyes, medium build, likes family, the seaside, walks, drinks, WLTM male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444565 ①

DO YOU HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS? Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, socialising, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448663 ①

PERFECT MATCH Mature, attractive lady, fair hair, brown eyes, in good shape, loves travel, theatre, sport, music, seeking the company of a cultured, funny, adventurous male. Maidstone. Box 462273 ①

MAKING A CONNECTION Easygoing male, dark hair, blue eyes, 5'5", caring and loving, likes cooking holidays, the countryside, bowls, cinema, seeking a similar lady 37-57. Ashford. Box 44118 ①

BE THERE NOW Old romantic, loyal, honest, 43, 5'7", brown hair, blue eyes, likes most things, WLTM female to settle down with and find love. Box 872206 ①

ACTIVE & ROMANTIC Single, attractive, affectionate male, 61, slim, 5'10", likes walking, swimming, tennis, holidays, works, seeking a slim, cheerful lady to share life with. Bexhill. Box 464042

HOLD MY HAND Separated male, 61, honest and strong, WLTM lady for walks, trips to seaside, cuddles and hopefully long term relationship. Box 445934 ①

LOVE IS THE ANSWER Separated male, 62yr old male, 6ft, blue eyes, solvent, hobbies include music, films, reading, American comics and football, WLTM a sweet lady for friendship/love. Herne Bay. Box 461016 ①

A PAIR OF SCAVENGERS Gentle easygoing widower, 65, OHAC, likes music, cycling, non-smoking, social drinker, seeks similar lady to enjoy the coast, boat sales and more with. Ashford. Box 456057 ①

IN THE STARS Single male, 56", medium build, 6ft, likes music, reading, seeking a nice, genuine lady, scorpion, Virgo, cancer stars preferred. Maidstone. Box 460939 ①

GREAT SENSE OF FUN Caring, sensitive widow, mid 60's, 5'10", slim build, a good laugh, a lady to share dining out, trips out and good times, companion ship could lead to more... Maidstone. Box 460924 ①

MEET YOUR MATCH! Slim single dad, 47, works full time, looking for a slim/medium build lady, 25-50, childless not a problem, hobbies include, fishing, football, DIY and cooking. Dover. Box 462630 ①

GOOD COMPANY Maidstone based guy, I'm, 47, 5'10", medium/blue eyes, and enjoy music, fishing, socialising etc, seeking similar woman for good company. Box 464447

AN ATTRACTIVE OFFER Handsome, tall male, 38, 5'8", looking for a young lady to slowly re-discover the finer things in life. Eastbourne. Box 461463 ①

MUSIC TO MY EARS Hi there my name's Christine, 59, 5'9", slim build, wear glasses, likes cooking, dining etc, seeking a slim lady to share my life with. Box 452337 ①

INTERESTED? Shy at first, I'm male, 37, and enjoy gardening, walks, seeking a woman, looks unimportant, 37-55 for loving relationship. Box 452337 ①

WALKS ALONG THE COAST Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, brown hair, GSOH, loves country walks, reading, cinema, seeking the company of a tall male. Margate. Box 486756 ①

MAKING A DATE Big lady (5'7"), 44, looking for decent, genuine man. I'm attractive, open-minded and honest man, must be a moderate drinker, for companionship, possible LTR. Box 454967 ①

THE RIGHT FIT Big lady (5'7"), 44, looking for decent, genuine man. I'm attractive, open-minded and honest man, must be a moderate drinker, for companionship, possible LTR. Box 454967 ①

MAKING A DATE Pretty, 36, 5'4", brown hair, blue eyes, likes cooking, dining out, cinema and reading, seeking a tall male for a loving relationship. Box 462077 ①

WALKS ALONG THE COAST Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, brown hair, GSOH, loves country walks, reading, cinema, seeking the company of a tall male. Margate. Box 486756 ①

MAKING A DATE Single male, 39, 5'9", brown hair, blue eyes, likes cooking, dining out, cinema, and reading, seeking a tall male for a loving relationship. Box 462077 ①

GET HAPPY Easygoing guy with GSOH, 46, not bad looking, looking for someone to enjoy friendship, romance and maybe something more. Eastbourne. Box 461473 ①

IN THE STARS Single male, 39, 5'11", slim build, a good laugh, a lady to share dining out, trips out and good times, companion ship could lead to more... Maidstone. Box 460924 ①

GET TOGETHER Single male, 51", 12", stone, seeking a slim lady, no ties, 35-50 & for a fun relationship. Box 463644 ①

NATURE SPEAKS Sensitive poet, 70, non-smoker, loves nature and long walks, seeks companion to hold her hand. Kent. Box 463914 ①

LOYAL AND HONOURABLE Teacher, 51, very fit and athletic, sporty, interested in music, love cooking, eating out, beach walks and more, seeks similar female soulmate. Seafront. Box 459073 ①

BE MY LADY? Kind upbeat male, 52, looking for a nice lady who's loyal and genuine and honest like myself, with many varied interests. Maidstone. Box 456395 ①

MAKING A DATE Sincere male, 54, self-employed, 54" likes walks, drinks, dining out, cinema, all the usual things, seeking female companionship and more. St. Leonards. Box 461908 ①

SIDE BY SIDE Loving male, 39, loves dogs, blonde hair looking for a partner to help walk them and get some fresh air, enjoy walking in. Hastings. Box 463717 ①

SEEKING MY MATCH Single dad, 39, 6ft, dark hair, nice looking, loyal, honest, separated, looking for a loving, honest, fun-loving lady. Eastbourne. Box 456980 ①

LOOKING FOR A BIRDIE Hi there, I'm Chris, 38, in good shape, attractive, own place, hard working and honest, loves days out, golf, summer! Looking for loving companion. Box 450517 ①

FULLY HOUSE TRAINED! Happy-go-lucky divorced single dad, 40, slim/medium build, 6ft, dark hair, love motorcycles, family time, cooking, WLTM female, prefers single mum, to enjoy life with. Polegate. Box 864778 ①

HOPING YOU'RE OUT THERE? Sincere female, 49, likes football, animals, country pursuits, seeks feminine woman for friendship, maybe more. Gillingham. Box 456805 ①

TABLE FOR 27 Horrify type woman, 50, looking for a similar female, 50, tall, 5ft 5", salt & pepper hair, I'm honest and trust worthy and looking for the same. Hastings. Box 457537 ①

HOW ABOUT TODAY? Looking for love and relationship with nice, genuine woman. I'm 42, 5'5", brown hair/blue eyes, enjoys cycling, films, eating in and out. Kent. Box 463958 ①

JUST THE TWO OF US Male, 42, 5'10", tall medium/large muscular fit, likes dating, bodybuilding, looking for female 30 to 45 for good times. Rochester. Box 862748 ①

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PROPERTY NEWS

Slump increases choice for first-time buyers

FIRST-time buyers are reaping the benefit of the British property slump.

Properties in almost 40 per cent of areas of the UK are now within their price range, a study claimed.

The average first-time buyer property could now be bought by someone on average earnings in 39 per cent of local authority districts, according to the Halifax bank.

The situation is a marked improvement on 2007, when homes in only six per cent of areas could be bought by someone on average earnings.

Potential first-time buyers on average pay would need to have spent about 27 per cent of their disposable income on mortgage payments in November 2009, compared to the 50 per cent they would have had to spend in June 2007.

The improvement in affordability has come through a combination of lower interest rates and house price falls.

But many first-time buyers have been unable to take advantage of the situation, due to tighter lending criteria.

Figures from the Council of Mortgage Lenders show the average person buying their first home with a mortgage put down a deposit of 25 per cent of their property's value for most of 2009.

The average price of a property bought by a first-time buyer was £133,794 in 2009, 10 per cent less than in 2008.

Rents likely to rise as new instructions fall

THE Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) expects to see rent rises in the coming months.

In its residential lettings survey covering the third quarter of 2009, surveyors reported that the number of rental properties coming on to the market fell, for the first time since January 2008.

Optimism over rents has therefore increased for the first time since July 2008, with only 4 per cent of surveyors still reporting falling, rather than rising, rents.

In addition, 22 per cent of respondents expected rents to rise rather than fall in the next three months, as a net balance of 11 per cent of surveyors saw new instructions falling, rather than rising.

The report states: "This is in stark contrast to levels seen late last year when the housing market was still suffering from falling prices and many would-be sellers were turning to the lettings market when their houses failed to sell."



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Estate agents see mixed fortunes for coming year

■ BY NICK AMES

EXPERTS have been looking into their crystal balls to predict the property market's future over the next 12 months, with varying results.

While Hamptons International and Chesterton Humberts expect prices to rise by 3 to 5 per cent and 2 per cent respectively during the course of this year, their fellow estate agent Savills predicts falls of 6.6 per cent.

This time last year, the doom and gloom surrounding the property market were unremitting from all quarters, with even estate agents – usually accused of talking up the market – predicting a continuing slide.

However, according to most market analysts, they were proved wrong in many ways.

In most cases, first-time buyers remained shut out of the market by the banks for most of 2009, tumbling mortgage rates meant property ownership became much more affordable for those who already owned — helping keep reposessions below the high levels predicted.

Equally significant was the shortage of property.

Holding out for higher prices, homeowners



have been reluctant to put their houses up for sale, leaving buyers to fight amongst themselves. The inevitable result has been a rising market, where overseas purchasers, lured by the weak pound, have added to the competition.

The Bank of England is an important factor.

Most commentators expect the Bank rate to remain at its record low of 0.5 per cent for a good few months. The next movement must be upwards, even though it could be some years before it returns to the high of 5.75 per cent reached at the peak of the market in the second half of 2007.

Predicting the balance of supply and demand remains more difficult.

Also crucial is what will happen to demand, which could be set back by rising unemployment, the continuing squeeze on incomes and an end to the stamp duty holiday on homes priced from £125,000 to £175,000.

Hometrack, the property data company, reported a 2.2 per cent drop in new-buyer registrations last month — the first such fall since January 2009.

"Rich households could continue to put upward pressure on prices in localised markets in 2010," said Richard Donnell, its director of research.

"However, a sustainable recovery in the housing market needs a broader base of buyers."

Uncertainty ahead of this spring's general election could add to caution.

Whatever the overall figure, there seems little doubt that Kent, London and the rest of the south east will continue to outperform the rest of the country this year, and into 2011 as well.

Protect your home as mercury falls

THE winter months are now upon us and website Confused.com is offering homeowners advice on how homes can be kept warm while temperatures outside are frosty.

Freezing conditions can burst pipes, along with heavy gusts of wind which can damage buildings and roofs.

Snowfall can also spell travelling trouble for those needing to get from A to B. All elements can result in problems for people who are caught unaware of a frosty mother nature.

Darren Black, head of home insurance at Confused.com said: "Winter is the time when all homeowners want to have nice cosy homes for some respite from the cold.

"In order to create this warm, safe haven, essential checks need to be carried out. Prevention is certainly better than cure when it comes to an emergency in the home, so people need to clear out guttering, lag pipes and wrap up any outside taps."

Advice from Confused.com which will help minimise home disasters includes:

- Clear the guttering and drain pipes of any leaves and debris. This will reduce the risk of blockages occurring.
- Cut back trees and large hedges which could cause damage if they are blown down.



- Wrap up outside taps with material which will act as a jacket from the cold.
- Chimneys should be swept regularly.
- Make sure that your loft is insulated, preventing valuable heat from escaping.
- If you are leaving the home for a while, do not switch the heating off. If you turn thermostats down in a frost, pipes will burst resulting in water damage.
- Make sure your boiler is serviced on a regular basis. As winter puts strains on them, checks need to be done to ensure they can cope under the additional heating pressure.
- When the heating is switched on, carbon monoxide detectors are a good idea. These will alert you to any dangerous levels of the chemical within the home. In order to avoid such a leak, regular boiler checks are essential.

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CHERITON £166,500

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03027

- 3 bedroom mid terraced
- Lounge/Diner
- DG/GCH



CHERITON £214,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03116

- 5 bedroom terrace
- No chain
- Garage



WEST END £174,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03004

- Spacious 2 bed flat
- Private rear garden
- Cellar and no chain



WEST END £134,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02993

- New 2 bedroom apartment
- Large rooms
- No chain



WEST END £129,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02994

- New 2 bedroom apartment
- Large rooms
- No chain



FOLKESTONE £86,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03071

- One bedroom first floor flat
- Large lounge
- Built-in wardrobes



CHERITON £118,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03127

- 2 bedroom terrace
- Private rear garden
- No chain



CHERITON £179,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02098

- 3 bedroom flat
- Large rooms
- New kitchen and bathroom



FOLKESTONE £94,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03088

- One bedroom flat
- Private rear garden
- Close to the town centre



FOLKESTONE £124,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03143

- 2 bedroom terraced
- 2 receptions, GFCH
- Modern fitted kitchen, East Cliff



DOVER £299,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03028

- Investment opportunity
- No chain
- 5 flats



CHERITON £199,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03072

- Quiet Cul-De-Sac location
- 2 bed detached bungalow
- Garage and parking



FOLKESTONE £128,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03062

- 2 bedroom house
- Superb renovation
- No chain



FOLKESTONE £166,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03111

- Three bedroom semi detached
- Off street parking
- No chain



FOLKESTONE £134,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03077

- Three bed town-house
- Integral garage
- GCH/DG



FOLKESTONE £224,950

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03073

- Extended three bedroom semi detached
- DG/OSP
- Close to Folkestone rail link



FOLKESTONE £129,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03133

- 2 bedroom terrace
- Private rear garden
- No chain



DOVER £134,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03130

- 2 bedroom terrace
- Large rear garden
- No chain



BROADMEAD VILLAGE £279,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03147

- Superb 4 bedroom detached
- 3 receptions, fitted kitchen
- OSP/single garage



DOVER £107,500

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03104

- Two bedroom terraced house
- Modern kitchen, new bathroom
- Lounge/Diner and garden

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FOLKESTONE £129,995
FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03117

- 2 bedroom terraced
- Recently renovated
- No chain

FOLKESTONE £89,995
FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03064

- One bed garden flat
- Popular location
- Must be seen

CHERITON £194,995
FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03145

- 3 bedroom semi detached
- Off road parking/garage
- Rear garden, GCH, DG

TOWN CENTRE £89,995
FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02909

- One bedroom apartment
- Newly built
- No chain

FOLKESTONE £120,000
FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03141

- Currently a 4 bedroom house
- Planning permission to extend
- Potential investment!

FOLKESTONE £129,995
FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02054

- Three bedroom terrace
- Fully renovated
- No chain

CHERITON £139,995
FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03138

- 3 bed semi detached
- Needs modernisation
- Front and rear gardens

DEAL £209,995
FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03135

- 3 bed detached bungalow
- Renovation project
- No chain

FOLKESTONE £199,995
FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03146

- 3 bed semi detached
- Off road parking
- Close to train station

FOLKESTONE £164,995
FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03090

- 4 bedroom terrace
- Close to seafront
- GCH & DG

FOLKESTONE £89,995
FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02546

- One bedroom flat
- Fantastic views
- Excellent condition

SANDGATE £109,995
FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02937

- One bed apartment
- Walking distance to beach
- Off road parking

THE METROPOLE £364,995
FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03114

- 4 bedroom third floor apartment
- Sea views and balcony
- Parking and store room available

THE LEAS £310,000
FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02671

- Metropole Court, The Leas
- Four bedrooms, two receptions
- Spacious entrance hall

METROPOLE £209,995
FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03089

- 3 bedroom apartment
- Sea views and no chain
- Fully renovated

WEST END £175,000
FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03060

- 3 bed apartment
- Roof terrace
- Fully fitted bar

CAPEL-LE-FERNE £299,995
FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03128

- 3 bed detached bungalow
- No chain
- OSP & single garage

FOLKESTONE £139,995
FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03131

- 3 bedroom terrace
- Private rear garden
- GCH/DG

FOLKESTONE £154,995
FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02983

- Three bedroom semi detached
- Superb order throughout
- Vacant possession

FOLKESTONE £274,995
FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03129

- 3 bed detached bungalow
- Sea views
- No chain

FOLKESTONE £374,995
FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03140

- 5 bed detached
- 3 reception rooms
- Sea views



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Dover

Three bedroom semi detached family home situated in Crabble. Two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, bathroom, central heating and double glazing. Viewing recommended.

Dover Office

£139,995

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Brookland

Marsh Cottage is a two bedroom detached period cottage retaining many original features. Accommodation lounge/diner, kitchen, utility area, conservatory, rear garden.

New Romney

£289,995

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Dover £119,950

Two Bedroom Terraced House. Lounge, Dining Room and Sun Room. Fitted Kitchen. Garden.

Dover Office

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Folkestone OIEO £85,000

Ideal first time buy. This is a two bedroom purpose built apartment with distant sea views and lounge/diner.

Folkestone Office

01303 250757



Whitfield OIEO £279,950

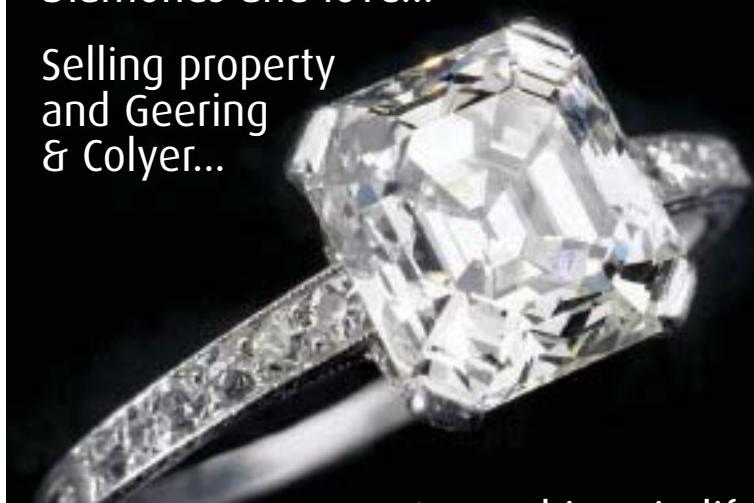
Four Bedroom Detached Bungalow. Entrance Hall, Lounge, Family Bathroom, Open Plan Kitchen/Diner. Off road parking. Rear garden, garage, central heating and double glazing.

Kearsney Office

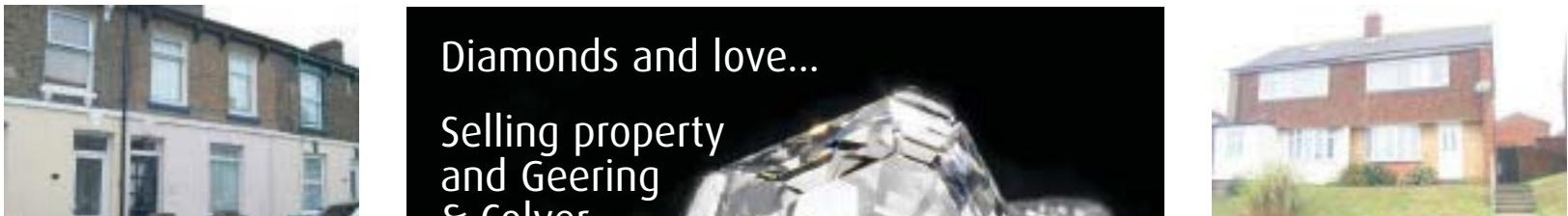
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Dover OIEO £135,000

Popular location. Three bedroom semi detached house with central heating and double glazing. Lounge. Kitchen/Diner. Bathroom. Garden.

Dover Office

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Hythe OIEO £375,000

This four bedroom detached family home backs onto the Hythe Canal with 170'ft approx rear garden. In and out drive and virtual tour available online at Geering & Colyer.com

Folkestone Office

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Whitfield £325,000

Five bedroom individually built detached house with two reception rooms, en suite to master bedroom, fitted kitchen, gardens and garage. Viewing highly recommended.

Kearsney Office

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Lydd £214,995

Grade II listed character end of terrace house. Four Bedrooms. Modern kitchen and bathroom. NO CHAIN.

New Romney

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Burmarsh £250,000

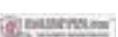
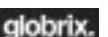
Refurbished three bedroom detached bungalow with field views to rear, kitchen/diner with integrated appliances, garage and off road parking, no chain

New Romney

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EAST STUDDAL



Dover 01304 201806

£265,000

FAST START - The seller of this property has opted for our **FAST START** package, making the moving timescale much shorter for you - Call for more details.

Situated on the outskirts of the popular village of East Studdal this detached three bedroom bungalow must be seen.

Offering bright spacious accommodation including a fantastic conservatory to the rear with views over the established garden, making it a perfect place to keep an eye on the bird population.

This home is set back from the road with off street parking for numerous vehicles.



WHITFIELD



£135,000

Two bedroom terrace house in the popular Whitfield area of Dover. This home has had some minor alterations made to it, to facilitate access, which would make it

Dover 01304 201806



ideal for someone with a disability. There is a manageable rear garden with access to a garage which can be found en block. The home is offered to the market chain free.

DOVER



£210,000

Three bedroom detached chalet style home in an elevated corner position with views across the valley towards Connaught Park and Dover Castle

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beyond. Very private rear garden and a detached garage.

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FOLKESTONE



Folkestone 01303 259211

£80,000

An ideal first time buy or investment property situated within close proximity to Folkestone Central train station and its fast link to London St. Pancras. The property overlooks Radnor Park and is within walking distance to local shops in Folkestone town centre. This is a first floor flat offering a lounge, two bedrooms, kitchen and bathroom. Some modernisation is required and internal viewing is highly recommended.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that we have been unable to confirm whether certain items included in the property are in full working order. Any prospective purchaser must accept that the property is offered for sale on this basis.

FOLKESTONE



Folkestone 01303 259211

£89,995

Viewing is recommended of this well maintained and garden flat. The property comprises an open plan living area with storage cupboard through to kitchen area with integral oven and hob and

space for appliances. To the rear of the property is a modern bathroom with white suite and a double bedroom with French doors leading onto the private and enclosed courtyard.

FOLKESTONE



Folkestone 01303 259211

£349,950

A former guest house near to Folkestone Central Train Station being sold with no onward chain. Six bedrooms, 3 reception rooms, 3

bathrooms & a basement level which is currently being used as a home office.

DOVER



Dover 01304 201806

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 19 ASTOR AVENUE, DOVER, KENT, CT17 0AR
 We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £94,000 on the above property.

Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

DOVER



Dover 01304 201806

OIEO £115,000

Two bedroom end of terrace house with gas central heating, rear garden and allocated parking.

FOLKESTONE



Folkestone 01303 259211

£144,995

2 bedroom well presented mid terrace home situated in the Cheriton Area of Folkestone. Entrance hall, lounge/dining room, fitted kitchen, 2 beds and bathroom.

FOLKESTONE



Folkestone 01303 259211

£180,000

Central location. Well situated for railway station. Arranged over four floors. Useful basement rooms. Two reception rooms. Four bedrooms. No chain.

FOLKESTONE



Folkestone 01303 259211

OIEO £215,000

Offered for sale with No Chain! Four bedroom family home in sought after Cheriton location.

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East Studdal | Price Range: £190,000 - £220,000

- 3 Bed Semi-Detached Chalet Bungalow
- Village Location/Garage
- En-Suite/Double Glazing

DOVER OFFICE | 01304 214876



Whitfield | Price Range £190,000 - £215,000

- 3 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Sought After Location
- No Onward Chain

DOVER OFFICE | 01304 214876



Dover | Price Range £160,000 - £180,000

- 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached House
- Off Road Parking/Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Additional Land to side for potential Garage

DOVER OFFICE | 01304 214876



Dover | Price Range: £155,000 - £175,000

- 4 Bedroom Semi Detached Property
- Sought After Area/Views To Rear
- Double Glazing/Central Heating

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Dover | Price: £134,950

- 3 Bedroom Semi
- No onward chain
- In need of a little TLC

DOVER OFFICE | 01304 214876



Dover | Price: £104,995

- 3 Bedrooms
- Sought after Location
- No onward Chain

DOVER OFFICE | 01304 214876



Dover | Price Range £55,000 - £75,000

- 1 Bedroom Converted Flat
- Off Road Parking/No Chain
- Town Centre Location

DOVER OFFICE | 01304 214876



Dover | Price: £62,500

- 2 Bedroom Top Floor Apartment
- Views of Dover Castle To Front
- No Onward Chain

DOVER - 01304 214876



Elvington | Price Range £58,500 - £65,000

- 1 Bed Ground Floor Flat
- Ideal First Time Buy/Investment
- Allocated Parking/No Chain

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For your ideal home, contact your local branch:

Deal: 01304 361420

Dover: 01304 214876

Folkestone: 01303 256505



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Eastry £227,500

3 bedroom detached chalet style property offering comfortable and modern living with living/dining room, contemporary kitchen, study, gfl wc, three bedrooms, contemporary bathroom. Garage, driveway, dbg, gfch.



Wingham £425,000

Elegant 5 bedroom home with accommodation over 3 floors and spacious cellar, 3 reception rooms, en-suite bathroom, enclosed courtyard garden, garage. Fitted Kitchen/Dining Room, wealth of local amenities.



Wingham £375,000

Deceptively spacious listed home, boasting charm, character and wealth of period features. Popular village location. Four bedrooms, parking for several vehicles, fitted kitchen, dining room. Sitting room, en-suite, cellar.



Preston £249,950

Immaculately presented, popular village of Preston, backing onto farmland. 3 bedrooms, plenty of parking, contemporary styled kitchen and bathroom, conservatory, wood burning stove, no onward chain. View now!



Sandwich £215,000

Three bedroom home situated within the heart of the conservation area of Sandwich. Walled courtyard garden, garage, living/dining room, kitchen, gfl WC, first floor bathroom. Well presented.



Sandwich £179,950

Two bedroom ground floor apartment situated in popular Sandwich location, dual aspect living room, kitchen, shower room, communal garden, off road parking, GFCH, no chain.



Eastry £320,000

Impressive detached family home, four bedrooms, living room, dining room, ground floor cloakroom, fitted kitchen, gardens to front, side and rear, parking, en-suite, triple aspects, private mews development.



Eastry £199,950

Deceptively spacious four bedroom semi like a 'showroom' inside, lounge, conservatory, kitchen/breakfast, two bathrooms, utility, 47' x 30' rear garden, off road parking for two cars, double glazing and gas central heating.



Worth £399,950

Three bed detached period farmhouse on a plot of approx 1/3 acre with outbuildings to include barn, stables. It comprises living room with log burner, dining room, kitchen, boot room, conservatory, gfl sh room, ffl bathroom.



Shepherdswell £325,000

Immaculately presented detached family home in sought after location. One of only 3 properties in the development of three. Fitted kitchen, living room, dining room, conservatory, four WC's, two en-suite shower rooms.



Sandwich £449,950

Something a bit special! This listed barn has been completely renovated to an extremely high standard combining original timbers and materials with a contemporary style using oak and glass.



Cliffsend £159,950

Two bedroom detached bungalow in need of modernisation situated on a double plot, lawned rear garden, det. Garage, call now to view.



Sandwich £360,000

Need acreage? This two/three bedroom semi detached cottage could be the answer! Paddocks approximately 1.25 acres; garden approximately .25 of an acre, stable blocks! Potential to extend and plenty of parking.



Sandwich £155,000

End terrace three bedroom home with spacious open plan living/dining room, kitchen, bathroom on first floor with white suite, double glazing, gas fired central heating, mainly paved patio garden to rear.



Worth £165,000

End terrace cottage, living/Dining room, kitchen, rear lobby, two bedrooms, first floor bathroom, generous sized rear garden, workshop/shed, driveway to front. Double-glazing, gas-fired central heating.



Deal £440,000

A charming period detached house with 5 bedrooms, three/four reception rooms, gfl WC, cellar, detached double garage with annex over, gardens to front rear and side. Call now to view.



Nonington £249,950

Well-presented detached spacious 3/4 bed bungalow, sought after village location, fitted contemporary style kitchen, living room, dining room, shower room and bathroom; driveway/garage, d.g. & gas fired central heating.



Sandwich £395,000

Detached family home boasting living room, dining room, conservatory, fitted kitchen, utility room, cloakroom. Four bedrooms, gardens, garage, driveway, double-glazing, gas-fired central heating.



Sandwich Bay £395,000

Detached family home, four bedrooms, popular Waldershare Avenue location, generous F&R gardens, ample v. parking, integral garage. Call now to view.



Sandwich £145,000

Two bedroom cottage situated in the market town of Sandwich, kitchen and living room to the ground floor, two bedrooms and family bathroom to the first floor. GFCH. Call now to view.

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tersons



Lydd £90,000 to £115,000

- Newly Built, & 2 Bedrooms
- Courtyard Style
- Modern Bathrooms
- Modern Kitchens

New Romney: 01797 364600



Burmarsh £149,950

- Semi Detached Bungalow
- 2 Bedrooms, Lounge
- Modern Kitchen
- Shower Room

New Romney: 01797 364600



Dymchurch £167,950 Freehold

- Semi Bungalow
- 2 Bedrooms
- Modern Kitchen
- Lounge, Dining Room

New Romney: 01797 364600

Feature Property



St Marys Bay Romney Marsh £249,995

- New Detached Chalet Bungalow
- Fabulous Finish
- 3 Reception Rooms
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- Shower Room and Bathroom

New Romney: 01797 364600



Dymchurch £169,950 Freehold

- End of Terraced, Lounge
- Dining Room
- 3 Bedrooms
- Gas Central Heating

New Romney: 01797 364600



Greatstone £199,995

- Sea Views from First Floor
- Backing onto the Dunes
- 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Separate Shower Room

New Romney: 01797 364600



Lydd £220,000

- Detached House
- 4 Bedrooms
- Modern, Well Presented
- Plenty of Parking

New Romney: 01797 364600



Dungeness £230,000

- Detached Bungalow
- Lounge & Sitting Room
- Kitchen/Dining Room
- 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom & WetRoom

New Romney: 01797 364600



Shepherdswell £285,000

- Detached 4 bedroom bungalow
- Quiet location - 1/2 acre garden
- Fantastic views
- Must be seen !!!

Dover: 01304 202173



Gateway £215,000

- Fantastic sea front location!!
- 2 Bed apartment with great views
- Lounge, dining room & balcony
- Garage

Dover: 01304 202173



Dover £115,000

- Well presented 2 bedroom house
- Modern kitchen & 1st floor bathroom
- Spacious lounge/diner
- Double glazing, GCH

Dover: 01304 202173



Maxton £129,500

- CHAIN FREE !! A 2 bedroom semi-detached house
- Lounge, dining room
- Rear garden Mostly DG & GCH

Dover: 01304 202173



Dover £52,000

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- A spacious studio flat with separate kitchen
- Chain Free !! Allocated parking

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Tersons Commercial Lettings



Cannon Street, Dover £15,000 p.a.

- Shop & Basement
- In pedestrianised area
- 730 + 710 sq.ft.

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Charlton Centre, Dover

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- Rents negotiable

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DYMCHURCH 3 Bed end Terrace Home, modern, garden £650 PCM

NEW ROMNEY det 3/4 bed bungalow, part furnished Garage, Central £1150 PCM

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MOTORS NEWS



Cult of 500 helps sales reach a five-year high

FIAT has shown the strength of its recovery in the UK by posting its best sales in five years, despite the recession.

The Italian brand, buoyed by more than 24,000 sales of its Fiat 500 retro cult car, registered 60,337 cars here last year, compared with 55,325 in 2008.

It also reported healthy sales for its Alfa Romeo and newly re-launched Abarth sporting brands and impressive rises in secondhand valuations: those for the Grande Punto supermini and Panda city car both rose around a quarter.



Mazda targets private sector to keep growth

KENT-based Mazda UK finished 2009 as the only major car marque to record eight consecutive years of market growth – its 2.4 per cent share topped its 2008 record.

The 48,000 sales were also ahead of those forecast, helped by 17,000 sales of the Mazda2 supermini – the most successful Mazda line ever in this country.

Mazda UK MD Jeremy Thomson said such a record in tough times was a tribute to its dealers and a strategy of concentrating on private sales.



Aveo joins Chevy style brigade with new look

CHEVROLET, having just opened order books for the aptly named Spark city car, has shown how it will apply similarly sharp styling to the next generation Aveo supermini.

This is the sporty teaser unveiled at the Detroit motor show; it is longer, wider and more spacious than the current production Aveo – due for the chop in 2011. Chevrolet Europe chief Wayne Brannon said: "The new Aveo will be completely in tune with the striking new Cruze and Spark."



TOP MARQUE: Volkswagen's new Polo recently scooped the European Car of the Year for 2010, beating off stiff competition from Toyota's innovative IQ and the Vauxhall Astra

Polo has perfect timing to match current mood

VOLKSWAGEN'S smart new Polo brought the European Car of the Year to the German marque for first time since the Golf Mk III's 1992 COTY win.

It also pipped strong challenges for the 2010 gong from the innovative Toyota IQ city car and powerful new Vauxhall Astra.

This fifth generation car – I'm discounting some dodgy facelifts sometimes touted as 'new' models – is classier, lighter and roomier to match the modern supermini trend; you can happily downsize and economise with this after giving up something larger.

Styling echoes the latest Golf and VW's reborn Scirocco and yet it rightly lacks the visual verve of the latest Ford Fiesta.

For it may be a small car – though looking about the same size as the original Golf – but the Polo has always been something of a premium buy and ought to be more reserved.

A seemingly rock solid interior is well-arranged and uses high quality soft touch plastics and well designed seats. Easy fold-flat rear seats allow for extra large cargoes and

ROAD TEST VW POLO

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal



Image



Space



Value



Running costs



Reliability



Green rating



there is ample stowage around the car.

Any lingering qualms about chopping an older and bigger motor for this three or five-door baby are then finally banished by a tidy drive, plus a ride quality and refinement that really would not disgrace a car two sizes bigger.

Some of this is undone by the buzzy little 70PS (69bhp) three-cylinder petrol unit in our Polo 1.2-litre SE five-door test car (£11,995), but I don't dislike this engine; steady cruising is no problem and the crisp gearshift and sure-footed handling make it entertaining on quieter roads. And despite VW championing of the diesel cause generally, 83 per cent of new Polo sales are expected to be petrol.

Even with a five-speed gearbox, the test car can average around 50mpg and is a relatively low emitter (128g/km CO₂), though still incurring annual road tax of £120 against the £35 of its current 1.6-litre diesel equivalents and tax exemption for the forthcoming BlueMotion eco model.

The diesel can also average around 65mpg, but the petrol versus diesel choice is much harder than before, especially when you can get into a petrol Polo for as little as £9,435 – diesel entry price is an astonishing £12,605.



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2004 SAAB 9-3 1.9TiD Linear, 4 Doors, Manual, Diesel, 50,000 miles, Metallic Steel Grey, ABS, Air conditioning, Alarm, Alloy wheels, Cloth seat trim, Full Electric Pack, Full Service History, Park distance control, Traction control.....£7,495

2005 05 SAAB 9-3 1.8T Linear Sport , 4 Doors, Automatic, Saloon, Petrol, 63,277 miles, Metallic Grey, 2 Owners, Cruise control, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Multi function steering wheel, ABS, Cloth seat trim, Full Electric Pack, Reverse parking aid, Part Service History, Air conditioning, Climate Control, Park distance control.....£7,295

2002 52 SAAB 9-3 2.3HOT Aero , 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 73,000 miles, Steel Grey, ABS, Alloy wheels, Full Electric Pack, Cruise control, Park distance control, Sports seats, Traction control, Climate control, In Car Entertainment, Warranty, Leather upholstery, Metallic paintwork, Tinted glass.....£5,495

2001 Y SAAB 9-3 2.2 TID SE , 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Diesel, 122,000 miles, Metallic blue, 2 Owners, Rear wiper, ABS, Air conditioning, Heated door mirrors, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Front electric windows, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, Audio remote control, Front head restraints, Front fog lights, Central locking, Passenger airbag, Remote central locking, Foglights, Drivers airbag, Trip computer, Full Service History, Alarm, Climate Control, Cloth upholstery, Headlight washers, Body coloured bumpers, Rear armrest, PAS, Child locks, Service indicator, Insurance Group: 12.....£3,295

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AUDI

A3 SPORTBACK, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning, alarm fitted, alloy wheels, automatic transmission, central locking, climate control, driver airbag, electric windows, front fog lights, immobiliser, metallic paint, leather interior, seat belts, Isofix child seat anchor points, rear armrest, 3x3 point rear seat belts, body coloured bumpers, height adjustable drivers seat, rear wiper, cloth seat trim, front head restraints, crossover black metallic, 26950 miles, £15295, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

TT, 2002, abs brakes air con alloy wheels cd player central locking, climate control, front fog lights, full service history, heated seats, immobiliser, metallic paint, leather interior, multiple airbags power steering, single cd player, tinted glass, trip computer, twin airbags, curtain airbags, remote central locking, silver, 55213 miles, £10000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

TACUMA, 1.6, 2008, green, 50 miles, £7985, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

CROSSFIRE, V6, air con, full leather, electric seats, heated seats, remote control, locking, electric windows, immobiliser, metallic paint, power steering, twin airbags, breakbeat grey, 16025 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

PANDA 4x4, 4x4, 2005, 4x4 abs brakes alloy wheels cd player central locking, electric windows, immobiliser, metallic paint, power steering, twin airbags, breakbeat grey, 16025 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

PUNTO, 1.2 ACTIVE, 2003, central locking, drivers airbag, electric windows, immobiliser, metallic paint, power steering, reverse parking aid, sat nav, red, 35684 miles, £13500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

XF, V6 S Luxury, 2010, abs brakes air con, alarm fitted, alloys automatic cd central locking, climate control, cruise control, drivers airbag, electric windows, immobiliser, metallic paint, power steering, reverse parking aid, sat nav, blue, £2500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

JAGUAR

S-TYPE, V6 SE Auto, 2005, abs brakes air con, alarm fitted, alloys automatic cd central locking, climate control, electric windows, immobiliser, metallic paint, power steering, twin airbags, breakbeat grey, 16025 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

SEBRING, Limited, remote central locking, immobiliser, full leather, power steering, abs, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, cd, air con, electric windows, stability control, cruise control, multiple airbags, Isofix, heated seats, electric seats, front fog lamps, powered folding mirrors, 18", alloys, black, 26000 miles, £8999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

FIT

5 SERIES, 525SE 5dr, In52 syz, air con, climate control, power steering, abs, remote central locking, remote alarm, front fog lights, parking sensor, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, rear headrests, centre armrest, electric windows, electric mirrors, multi-function steering wheel, cruise control, adjustable steering column, traction control, twin air bags, side air bags, curtain airbags, stereo, alloy wheels, blue, 21569 miles, £5495, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

Z3, Cabriolet Roadster, 1998, abs brakes air con, alarm fitted, alloy wheels cd player, electric windows, front fog lights, immobiliser, metallic paint, leather interior, multiple airbags power steering, sports seats, trip computer, silver, 68951 miles, £4000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BRAVO, active, 2007, abs brakes air con, alarm fitted, cd player, central locking, drivers airbag, electric windows, immobiliser, multiple airbags power steering, single cd player, tinted glass, twin airbags, white, 49000 miles, £10995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

DOBLO CARGO, 2007, cd player, diesel drivers airbag, immobiliser, single cd player, trip computer, steel bulkhead, twin sliding doors, white over 4000 cars in group stock, 15 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CIVIC, i-VTEC SE, 2005, abs brakes air con, alloys automatic transmission, central locking, drivers airbag, electric windows, immobiliser, multiple airbags power steering, satin silver, 23251 miles, £6500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, trip computer, side airbags, electric/driver mirrors, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, folding rear seats, service indicator, full size spare wheel, immobiliser, Isofix child seat anchor points, rear armrest, 3x3 point rear seat belts, body coloured bumpers, height adjustable drivers seat, rear wiper, cloth seat trim, front head restraints, crossover black metallic, 26950 miles, £8446, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CIVIC, Type R, 2005, abs brakes air con, alarm fitted, alloys cd electric windows, front fog lights, immobiliser, metallic paint, power fold mirrors, airbags power steering, sports seats, trip computer, remote central locking, grey, 46642 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

HR-V, ESTATE 3DR, 2000, abs brakes cd player, central locking, electric windows, immobiliser, metallic paint, power steering, twin airbags, silver, 42000 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

JAGUAR

S-TYPE, V6 SE Auto, 2005, abs brakes air con, alarm fitted, alloys automatic cd central locking, climate control, cruise control, electric windows, immobiliser, metallic paint, power steering, twin airbags, breakbeat grey, 16025 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

SCUDO, 1.6 MULTIJET COMFORT, 2009, abs brakes cd central locking, diesel drivers airbag, electric windows, full service history, immobiliser, metallic paint, multiple airbags power steering, single cd player, trip computer, twin airbags, remote central locking, Isofix child seat points, metallic green, 3000 miles, £12000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

HONDA

ACCORD, i-CTDi EX, 2007, abs brakes air con, alarm fitted, alloys cd central locking, climate control, cruise control, drivers airbag, electric windows, heated seats, immobiliser, leather interior, left hand drive, multiple airbags, power fold mirrors, power steering, reverse parking aid, satellite navigation, sunroof, silver, 79797 miles, £9500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4495, Beckenham, 0208 662 6133 (TRADE)

SPORTAGE, 2.0 CRDI XS, 2008, abs brakes cd player, central locking, climate control, drivers airbag, electric windows, full leather trim, immobiliser, silver, 55 miles, £18310, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MINI

COOPER, 1.6, 2004, abs brakes, alloys cd central locking, airbag, electric windows, front fog lights, immobiliser, metallic paint, power steering, cd, tonneau cover, remote central locking, black, 45412 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

ONE, 1.6, 2004, abs brakes, electric windows, immobiliser, metallic paint, airbags, remote central locking, indi blue, 41000 miles, £6500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

FIAT PANDA 4x4



MAYBE not quite the typical 'butch' 4x4, but the Panda makes a surprisingly tough little customer for urban and rural users, thanks to under body protection and greater ride height. Despite Fiat's past reputation for poor reliability, the Panda has also proved itself as dependable as it is practical thanks to the boxy yet stylish five-door city car body. In sharp contradiction to the 'gas guzzling' image of 4x4s, the Fiat's 1.2-litre petrol engine should average more than 40mpg too.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

4x4 ON THE CHEAP

SOARING fuel and tax costs, plus the economic downturn, have clobbered second-hand values for big thirsty 4x4s, but the redefined market has firmed up prices on smaller 'rough and tough' drives. Fact is some people who bought 4x4s originally, have become used to the extra grip and higher driving position even if they don't tend to seek out serious off-roading. So, forced to sell their bigger 4x4s, many may be looking to downsize to budget all-wheel-drive alternatives although these are not without their drawbacks – including less space.

SUZUKI JIMNY



PRETTY it ain't, but the Jimny has long been pretty much the cheapest 'proper' off-roader on the UK market. If you really do need cut-price 4x4 clout in challenging conditions then this is the car. However, that ability brings penalties; the Jimny is rather bouncy, primitive and crude on-road so it is not a 4x4 to buy for image-conscious town dwellers, but the car is frugal, cheap to run and prices are sensible for a reliable and durable little 4x4.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

DAIHATSU TERIOS



THIS is really a tale of two cars. The original Terios was reasonably capable off-road, but on-road refinement was poor even if the car's reliability has proved to be bulletproof and it makes a good used buy. The new version, launched in 2006, has far better ability in both departments, but is probably still too young to be found in numbers on the used market. Power is exclusively petrol in both cases, but they are reasonably economical and low emission.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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Closing Date 4th February 2010

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GOOD LUCK! Rob Key hopes to keep injuries at bay for Kent to compete



PARTICIPATION: Girls' football is on the rise

Football is still No 1 across the county

PARTICIPATION in football has increased across the board this season, according to encouraging statistics released by the Kent County Football Association (KCFA).

Figures show there are more youth players, disabled players and referees involved in the game on a regular basis than last season. It means the sport remains the most popular in the county, with 46,000 people competing every week – an increase of more than five per cent.

Paul Dolan, KCFA development manager, outlined the body's role in promoting the grass-roots game which they argue makes an important vital contribution towards building stronger communities, improving health, reducing crime and tackling obesity.

He said: "The KCFA services the needs of the football community by putting in place a new generation of modern footballing facilities, increasing and widening participation levels, raising standards within affiliated clubs and investing in the football workforce by providing quality education courses to administrators, coaches and referees."

The biggest rise was among young players. There are 175 more mini-soccer and youth football teams in Kent this season. It equates to 2,500 more players compared with last year, which is ahead of the KCFA's target to get more children involved. The increase includes 23 more youth female teams and 16 new disabled sides.

As well as the desire to attract more players to the sport, the Football Association has prioritised referees through its Respect programme. This year there are an extra 21 male and five female referees qualified to officiate at Kent matches. It takes the overall figure of registered referees in the county above 1,100.

The next priorities are to increase the number of mini-soccer and youth teams playing in FA Charter Standard Clubs and to gain two new FA Charter Standard Leagues.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT
glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk

Bowlers unit staying fit will be key for us, says Key

KEEPING players fit for the whole summer is going to be integral if Kent are going to compete in the top tier of English cricket, according to skipper Rob Key.

Kent return to Division One of the County Championship this season with a settled but small playing squad, which means injuries to key players could have a major impact.

The club were without arguably their best fast bowler in Robbie Joseph for the majority of last season, which put extra strain on the bowling attack. However, he has had successful shoulder surgery and is expected to be fit for the start of the season, while the addition of Australian Stuart Clark will help bolster the attack, together with another new seamer expected to sign shortly.

CRICKET

Keeping his bowling attack fit and firing is essential to Key, who expects his side to be challenging for honours this summer.

"On paper our top 11 is as good as any around, but obviously Durham are the stand-out side with people like Steve Harmison in their side," he said. "If we have Simon Cook, Amjad Khan, Joseph and Clark, that's a very good attack. You need a bit of luck to keep them fit, and the problem is if they aren't fit we have a couple of young guys coming in that have potential, but they are where they are because they still have a lot to learn, so ideally you want to go in

with your full-strength attack. This year we can't be naïve – history's told us we can't always do that."

The club captain has already forged a good working relationship with new head coach Paul Farbrace and the pair are looking for the younger players to step up and cement their place in the side.

Key said: "It's going to take a lot of luck as it always does, but the good thing is we have a couple of young guys coming through. Sam Northeast – there is going to be a lot of opportunities for him, Alex Blake as well, so we are starting to see that we are strengthening not only by signing players, but the young players coming through.

"The bowling side of the things is the only place where we need to add to the side, really."

Kent express their interest in offering Clark return deal



CRICKET

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

TALKS are already under way with seam bowler Stuart Clark about coming back next year after the Australian signed as Kent's overseas player for the first half of the summer.

The county offered the 34-year-old a short-term contract before Christmas, which was exclusively revealed on our website, which he got around to signing last week after getting the go-ahead from Cricket Australia.

The Australian right-arm seam bowler, who has 94 wickets from 24 Test matches for his country, has shrugged off a back injury that has kept him out of action for New South Wales of late and will be available to play for Kent as they prepare for their return to Division One of the County Championship.

The club's head coach, Paul Farbrace, also revealed to this newspaper that discussions have already begun with Clark about a return to St Lawrence, should he impress this summer.

Quality

"Stuart is hoping to play in the Indian Premier League in 2011 and we have had preliminary talks with him, that if things go well this summer, then there may be some possibility of him coming back at some stage next year," he said.

"He is a high-quality player and a high-quality bloke, and also the fact he is available from ball one of the summer because he is not playing in the IPL is a great thing for us."

While Clark, who was scheduled to join the county as their overseas player last summer before being called up to play for Australia, has put pen to paper on a deal, a spinner of international quality is the next player the club hope to tie down for the second half of the summer.

While Farbrace wouldn't be drawn on the identity of the club's overseas target, he did say that he is "something different to what we have got" and that the player is involved in a current international series.

The club are also keen to bolster their bowling ranks with two domestic seamers on Kent's radar, although Farbrace did say they would only sign one of them.

"We have an overseas player in place for the second half – what we are still waiting on is a seamer option," he said. "We are still looking at bringing in one more seamer if we possibly can and we are still talking to the same two people we were before Christmas."

With regulations stating that counties can name two overseas players in this summer's revamped Friends Provident Twenty20, Kent are contemplating the idea of extending Clark's deal to include the competition. That would mean he teams up with the 'mystery' new spinner for the second half of the season, although that is still yet to be decided.

• James Tredwell has been included in a strong England Lions squad for next month's tour of the United Arab Emirates. The spinner, who is on duty with England in South Africa, will be involved in the first half of the trip. After four Twenty20 games against the UAE and Pakistan A, he will transfer to the England squad for the tour of Bangladesh.

ACTION: Paul Farbrace revealed talks have begun with Stuart Clark (above) about a return to St Lawrence

Hess calls for change as Whites take on road trip

FOOTBALL

■ BY TOM HOWARD

DOVER Athletic boss Andy Hessianthalter has called for the FA Trophy to be regionalised after being handed a 660-mile midweek round trip to Fleetwood Town.

The Whites were due to play Blue Square North side Fleetwood Town in the second round of the competition on Saturday, but a fault with their Highbury pitch frost protection system saw the game fall foul of the weather.

With the tie postponed, the Football Association insisted the game should be rearranged for last night (Tuesday), leaving Dover to make the long trip and play the tie in a day.

Hessianthalter was unhappy with the decision and felt it would be difficult for some of his players to take time off work to travel to the game.

He believes that in future the competition should follow the pattern of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy and become regionalised.

He said: "For us to travel up to Fleetwood we would have to leave early from Dover to get up there for about five and we would probably not

get back until five the next morning. It means players have got to get time off work. Some of my squad like Shaun Welford and Nicky Southall are going to struggle to get the time off and do that."

"We asked the FA if we could play the game on a Saturday, but they disagreed. It's crazy, if you ask me. I think the competition should be regionalised at this stage. It's non-league football at the end of the day. The Johnstone's Paint Trophy is regionalised, so why can't it be done in the FA Trophy?"

Saturday's postponement did allow the Dover boss to continue his search for defensive reinforcements.

The Whites defence has been weakened in recent weeks, with James Rogers and Dean Hill serving suspensions, while Jake Leberl, Danny Walder and Sam Gore remain on the injury list.

He said: "I will keep making calls and we are still after a defender from a Football League club."

"Obviously we have lost Tom Wynter, as he was recalled by Gillingham. Fair play to him, he has got himself involved with the first team, but I will be keeping an eye on him. We would like him to return to us in the future."

• Dover were due to play Fleetwood Town in the FA Trophy second round tie last night. Log on to www.yourdover.co.uk for a full report.

LEAGUE TABLES

(not including midweek games)
BLUE SQUARE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Newport County	23	17	5	1	+35	56
2 Woking	24	12	6	6	+8	42
3 Dover Athletic	25	12	5	8	+6	41
4 Chelmsford City	24	12	7	5	+2	41
5 Braintree Town	22	10	9	3	+9	39
6 Thurrock	23	11	6	6	+7	39
7 Eastleigh	22	10	5	7	+4	35
8 Bromley	22	10	5	7	+5	35
9 Bath City	22	9	7	6	+10	34
10 Staines Town	24	8	10	6	+9	34
11 Farnham United	24	10	4	10	-2	34
12 St Albans City	24	9	5	10	-1	32
13 Basingstoke Town	24	9	5	10	-11	32
14 Bishop's Stortford	23	8	6	9	+1	30
15 Havant & Waterlooville	20	6	9	5	+1	27
16 Maidenhead United	22	6	8	8	0	26
17 Dorchester Town	23	6	4	13	-17	22
18 Hampton & Richmond	21	5	6	10	-9	21
19 Worcester City	23	4	7	12	-7	19
20 Lewes	22	3	8	11	-14	17
21 Weston-super-Mare	23	4	4	15	-18	16
22 Weymouth	22	3	5	14	-30	14

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Folkestone Invicta	21	15	5	1	+19	50
2 Worthing	22	14	5	3	+17	43
3 Godalming Town	20	12	3	5	+15	39
4 Walton & Hersham	21	11	4	6	+7	37
5 Croydon Athletic	19	10	6	3	+21	36
6 Fleet Town	20	10	3	7	+11	33
7 Ramsgate	20	9	5	6	+7	32
8 Merton	21	9	5	6	-1	32
9 Chatham Town	22	9	3	10	-6	30
10 Sittingbourne	18	8	4	7	+7	28
11 Maidstone Town	19	8	4	7	+2	28
12 Tonbridge & Casuals	21	8	3	10	-3	27
13 Corinthian-Casuals	21	8	2	11	+2	26
14 Dulwich Hamlet	20	6	8	6	0	26
15 Leatherhead	18	7	3	8	+4	24
16 Horsham YMCA	22	5	9	4	-4	24
17 Metropolitan Police	20	5	7	8	+3	22
18 Walton Casuals	20	6	4	10	-7	22
19 Chipstead	22	5	5	12	-14	20
20 Whittlebury Town	21	5	2	14	-27	17
21 Eastbourne Town	22	3	7	12	-23	16
22 Ashford Town	18	2	5	11	-30	11

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Faversham Town	15	11	2	2	+24	35
2 Herne Bay	13	10	1	3	+13	28
3 Erith & Belvedere	14	9	0	5	+4	27
4 Sevenoaks Town	14	7	3	4	+6	24
5 Beckenham Town	13	7	1	5	+9	22
6 Greenwich Borough	14	6	3	5	0	21
7 Hythe Town	11	5	4	2	+6	19
8 Tunbridge Wells	15	4	7	4	0	19
9 Erith Town	11	5	3	3	+7	18
10 Sporting Bengal	14	5	3	6	-10	18
11 Gravesend	12	4	4	4	-4	16
12 Norton Sports	12	4	1	7	-5	13
13 Holmesdale	14	4	1	9	-6	13
14 Fisher	16	3	3	10	-18	12
15 Corinthian	13	2	3	8	-15	9
16 Lordwood	11	0	3	8	-21	3

FIXTURES

Blue Square South: Dover Athletic v Havant & Waterlooville; Ryman Division One South: Godalming Town v Folkestone Invicta; Kent League Premier: Erith Town v Deal Town; Hythe Town v Beckenham Town



UNHAPPY: Dover manager Andy Hessianthalter felt the decision to rearrange the club's FA Trophy tie in midweek was 'crazy' and has called for change

FOOTBALL



WELCOME BREAK: James Everitt recovered from injury

'Hectic schedule won't faze us,' says Cugley

AFTER successfully negotiating a hectic fixture schedule in the autumn, Folkestone Invicta manager Neil Cugley is unfazed about the build-up of games from a succession of postponements.

The Seasiders' game at home to Eastbourne on Saturday succumbed to the icy conditions, along with the rest of the Ryman League programme. They have completed just one game since December 12, with four games either postponed or abandoned since.

The games will now be rearranged for midweek dates later in the season. Despite having a small squad, Cugley is confident they will handle the rush of games after coming through a period earlier in the campaign which saw them play 15 games in less than two months.

He said: "I don't think it'll be a big problem for us. We got through that period in October and November, although we were very lucky with injuries.

"But we're stronger now – the break has given James Everitt and Jimmy Dryden time to recover from knocks and Lee Spiller will have longer to get up to fitness.

"We've also got people like Pete Williams, who has come on a long way and is a squad player now, so I think we'll cope."

The bulk of Invicta's squad live locally, which has helped limit the disruption to training sessions. The club are also helped geographically, with Cheriton Road traditionally not as badly affected from severe weather compared with pitches inland.

The prolonged inactivity does at least preserve Folkestone's seven-point lead at the top of the Ryman South, much to Cugley's delight.

He said: "We've said it was a tremendous achievement to be top of the table in December, but now we're going to be there until at least mid-January. Suddenly we'll only have three months to go and we'll just take them one at a time."

• Folkestone are due to travel to Godalming on Saturday.

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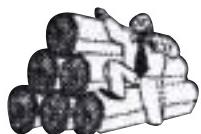
indoors, but it's not the same as playing games.

"However, the biggest worry for us is whether our players will have the match fitness they did before Christmas. Match fitness is very different to physical fitness.

"Everyone is in the same boat with postponements, so it will just be a case of which team can cope with the break the best.

"The good thing to come out of the postponements is that some of our injured players are recovering fast and fighting to regain their places in the team."

• Dover hope to return to action this Saturday, when they host Old Elthamians in London 1 South. Deal & Bettleshanger are due to take on Old Reigations, while Folkestone head to Sussex to face Horsham.



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